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Prosperous US
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Val Kilmer is
'The Saint'
Arts & Entertainment, Page 7



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World of Sport

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Yifat Kastiel, 23, poses at the funeral in Holon Sunday of her twin sister Liat, killed together with Hagit Zavitzky by terrorists in Wadi Kelt last week. Zavitzky will be buried in Kfar Adumim today. (Reuters)

Police seek public's help in Wadi Kelt terrorist probe

By MARGOT DUKAKHTCH
Police are asking the public's assistance in their investigation of the murders of Hagit Zavitzky and Liat Kastiel, both 23, whose bodies were found with multiple stab wounds in Wadi Kelt on Friday afternoon.
Investigators ask the driver who took Kastiel and Zavitzky from the Dead Sea area to Kfar Adumim on Thursday to come forward.
According to Judea and Samaria Police spokesman Opher Sivan, shortly after their arrival at Kfar Adumim at about noon, the women decided to hike to Wadi Kelt.
Latest reports conflict with details first published after the women's bodies were discovered, said Sivan.
"it appears the women attended a concert at the Dead Sea on Wednesday night and stayed there the whole night," he said.
Sivan stressed that the investigation is continuing, based mainly on intelligence reports, although some people have been held for questioning.
"Those questioned are not necessarily Beduin and Arabs who live near Wadi Kelt," he said.
He added that the headquarters set up nearby the murder scene has been dismantled and police are no longer combing the area for clues.
The partially clothed bodies of Kastiel and Zavitzky were discovered lying face down in water at the bottom of the wadi some 80 meters apart.
Some of their personal belongings were missing, which led police to believe that the terrorists had taken them as proof they had carried out the murders.
Liat Kastiel was laid to rest on Sunday morning in Holon, where hundreds attended the funeral.
Her older sister, Dolly, tears running down her face and in a choked voice, spoke on behalf of the family.
"List, my dear sister, here I stand before you. My child, whose name is known now in Israel and throughout the world. You were a child who always distanced yourself from the restraints in this world ... The Lord only takes those who are made of something special, as you were.
"If you were able to speak with the human animals before they murdered you, you would have told them that there is a place for everyone on this Earth to live together. The knife in their hands would have turned into an olive branch."
Hagit Zavitzky is to be buried this morning in the cemetery at Kfar Adumim. OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan paid a condolence call on the family on Sunday and updated them on the investigation.
On Sunday, President Ezer Weizman said in Haifa that, "The double murder in Wadi Kelt is a serious indication that we are still in a security situation that is not simple."
Weizman expressed hope for cooperation with the Palestinian Authority, "so that the miscreants will be caught - and I'm not sure it'll be so easy."
PA Chairman Yasser Arafat on Sunday also condemned the Wadi Kelt murders.
"This is a barbaric, shameful, unethical act. Whoever did it must be ashamed and it is completely unacceptable by any side," Arafat told Reuters.
He said in Jericho that Israeli and Palestinian security officers had met on Saturday to discuss the issue, and stressed the Palestinians are coordinating with Israel in the murder investigation.
Likud MK Uzi Landau, head of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, called on the government yesterday to respond to the two murders by constructing 1,000 housing units in Ma'aleh Adumim and Mishor Adumim.
The PLO continues to encourage terror and murder, in the hope of deterring the continuation of settlement expansion and construction on Har Homa, he said in a statement.

Levy, Albright to meet Friday

By MICHAL YUDELMAN, HILIEL KUTTNER, and news agencies
Foreign Minister David Levy is to meet with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in Washington on Friday, to review American and Israeli positions on the current state of the peace process.
The visit, at Albright's invitation, is expected to lay the groundwork for a visit by US special Middle East envoy Dennis Ross in the near future, diplomatic sources in Jerusalem said.
Ministry sources noted that Levy and Albright became acquainted and established friendly relations during the time Albright served as her country's UN representative, and that the two converse with each other in French.
In Washington, meanwhile, it was reported that Ross will return to the region in early May in a further bid to restart Israeli-Palestinian talks. Officials in Jerusalem, however, said Ross would return only when there is a real chance of renewing the talks.
"We're still probing, with the Israelis and the Palestinians, how to energize the negotiating track," a senior US official said Friday. "We'll probably be going back in two weeks."
Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's spokesman urged the US to help restart the stalled peace process with Israel.
"[President] Clinton has promised Arafat to make an initiative and we are still waiting for it," spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh said yesterday.
The US official said the current stalemate "is as serious as I've seen," calling it a "crisis of confidence [that] won't be addressed easily, simply or quickly. We don't have a negotiating process, and we have to do something about it ... There's less in the bank now than at any time since we started," he said.
The official added that Israeli-Palestinian security cooperation earlier this month that led to the capture of the killers of Sharon Edri was "more or less" an isolated instance. "We need structured, ongoing cooperation. That we don't have yet." But he rejected the notion advanced by Palestinian officials that security cooperation was tied to political developments.
"It's not tied to it and we don't accept the logic of it. Security cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians underscores the logic of the whole process. The two [Wadi Kelt] murders [last week] are not going to help matters. We have to make sure the security cooperation is solid."
On Friday, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns criticized the UN General Assembly's Har Homa resolution, saying that if the 134 countries that voted in favor really wanted to help solve the problem, they would emulate the US.
"We're a much more pragmatic and realistic country when it comes to this thing, than some of these other countries that just stand up and vote for meaningless resolutions," Burns said.
Meanwhile, the European Union's envoy to the Middle East, Miguel Moratinos, yesterday held

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Mimouna celebrations today

By Jerusalem Post Staff
Mimouna celebrations were launched last night by Jews of Moroccan heritage, who opened their homes around the country to welcome guests.
The celebrations were officially opened after the close of Pessah last night in Ashdod, where Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, under tight security, called for unity.
Today, the central public Mimouna celebration will be held in the Jerusalem Municipality's Safra Square, instead of the usual venue, the city's Sacher Park.
Mimouna organizers said tents and barbecues will not be allowed in Safra Square, where there will be a variety of musical and artistic entertainment, including a performance by singer Zehava Ben.
Despite the change in venue, Sacher Park is expected to be packed with families barbecuing, and light musical entertainment is to be provided at the site.
Schoolchildren, meanwhile, enjoy an extra day of vacation today.
In the Ramat Gan National Park today, the Iranian Jewish community will hold its after-Pessah celebration, which is to be attended by President Ezer Weizman, Netanyahu, and MKs.
In Or Akiva last night, Weizman, Police Inspector-General Assaf Heifetz and OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine attended a Mimouna celebration.
During Pessah, some 700,000 people visited the country's national parks and nature reserves.
The National Parks Authority carried out a cleanliness campaign during the holiday, distributing garbage bags to vacationers. However, the authority said this led to no improvement in the litter situation, and it would take several days to restore cleanliness to the national parks.
Authority officials also noted a marked increase this year in the phenomenon of vacationers picking wildflowers, which is outlawed.
At the Coral Reserve in Eilat, the garbage left by vacationers was particularly bad this year. Hundreds of small plastic bags were left floating in the reserve, endangering the light and air supply to the reef.

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NEWS

in brief

Closure being eased today

From this morning, more than 5,000 Palestinian traders and hotel workers who are married and over 30 are being permitted entry from the West Bank and Gaza Strip into Israel. In addition, Palestinian medical personnel, teachers, journalists, and employees of the Civil Administration, international organizations and religious institutions may also travel to Jerusalem from the West Bank. *Itim*

B'nai B'rith package analyzed, found safe

The suspicious package delivered last week to the international headquarters of B'nai B'rith contained common household bacteria, the FBI said yesterday.

Tests conducted at the Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, revealed it was not a disease-causing organism, as initially feared.

Authorities called in hazardous materials specialists after labels on a broken petri dish mailed to the Jewish service organization indicated it contained deadly anthrax and bubonic plague bacteria. More than 100 B'nai B'rith employees were quarantined in the group's Washington, DC offices for more than eight hours on Thursday when workers discovered the package. *AP*

Palestinian with knife stopped at roadblock

Border policemen found a knife in the pocket of a Palestinian from Beit Hanina at the A-Ram roadblock north of Jerusalem on Sunday. He said he had planned to stab a policeman or soldier because of a family dispute, and was held for questioning. *Itim*

Two seriously hurt in family feud

Two people were seriously injured in a fight between two families in the lower Galilee village of Tur'an last night. They were taken by ambulance to Poriya Hospital near Tiberias. Nazareth police, who broke up the scuffle, said it was part of an ongoing feud between the two families. *Itim*

Kiryat Yam man electrocuted

A Kiryat Yam man was electrocuted Sunday while trying to fix an electrical appliance. A Magen David Adom team declared him dead at the scene. *Itim*

Cairo court extends detention of suspected spy

A Cairo court has extended the detention for 45 days of a retired Egyptian navy officer accused of spying for Israel, officials said Sunday. Prosecutors argued in court on Saturday that they needed more time to investigate the case against Samir Osman, 47, who was arrested last November.

The prosecutors have accused Osman of selling military information to Israeli agents in Hungary, Greece and Turkey, as well as swimming 600 meters across the Red Sea from the Egyptian resort of Taba to the Israeli border for secret meetings with agents. If found guilty, Osman could face up to 25 years in jail. *AP*

Islamic Jihad warns of new wave of violence

Islamic Jihad issued a statement on Sunday night warning of "a large circle of violence and wars" in the region if Israel continues with its settlement policies. The statement, signed by the group's deputy leader, Hamdi Hami, said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is leading the region to new violence because of what it termed his stubbornness in continuing construction at Har Homa. *Itim*

Father, baby die after crash

Yitzhak Nachum, 31, and his two-month-old daughter, who were injured in a crash on the Jerusalem-Ma'aleh Adumim Road on Saturday night, died in Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem on Sunday.

Nachum's wife, Etty, remains in hospital after being seriously injured. Another seven people were hurt in the crash, which occurred when a car overtook a line of vehicles at a roadblock and collided head-on with the Nachum family car.

Lilach Cohen, 20, who was injured in a road accident near Beit Shemesh, died on Saturday. Omar Turki, 25, was killed and two others injured when a truck overturned on the Teffen-Carmiel road early Sunday morning. Traffic police said the driver lost control of the truck.

Eduardo Deizik, 28, died when his car crashed into an electricity pole near the Ashdod intersection

early Sunday morning. His 23-year-old girlfriend was critically injured and two of their friends were lightly hurt in the accident. Police said they had been driving from Ashkelon after a party, and they suspected the driver was drunk.

In Kiryat Malachi, six-year-old Inbar Zvi was seriously injured when she was hit by a jeep while crossing Beo Gurion Boulevard on Sunday evening. Traffic police said she walked onto the road from between parked cars, and the jeep driver was not able to brake in time.

Twelve people were injured, most of them lightly and none seriously, in two other accidents at the end of the Pessah holiday. Five sustained light-to-moderate injuries in a three-car collision on the Nazareth bypass road on Sunday night. Seven others were hurt when two cars collided sideways near the Beit Zarzir bridge yesterday morning. *Itim*

One killed in rioting near Hebron

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

IDF troops shot dead 18-year-old Issam Akabneh, a high school student and lightly wounded another Palestinian in rioting in Haras Village near Hebron on Sunday night.

Soldiers and border policemen operating in the area were attacked by Palestinians with stones and firebombs. In order to disperse the rioters soldiers opened fire at the Palestinians, resulting in the death of Akabneh, who was buried later that night.

Yesterday, hundreds of Palestinian students, shouting "Allah is great," marched in Haras from their schools to the mourning tent set up by the Akabneh family. Black and red graffiti scrawled on the walls of houses in the village signed by Hamas stated: "Your blood will not be spilled in vain. We swear we will avenge you."

The IDF Spokesman said last night the incident is under investigation, but confirmed that one Palestinian had died and another had been wounded.

Earlier on Sunday, IDF troops acting on intelligence information discovered three bombs inside a house in Kfar Dir Simat, also in the Hebron area. The occupants of the house said they had no knowledge of the bomb, and two brothers were detained for questioning. The bombs were later dismantled by IDF sappers. The bombs were reportedly being prepared for use in Hamas terrorist attacks against Israeli targets.

The IDF yesterday revoked an order imposed on Sunday prohibiting Israelis from entering the West Bank town of Jenin, and a closed military zone that had been declared on Tulkarm and Kalkilya.



Friends weep at a service yesterday for Palestinian high school student Issam Akabneh, who was shot and killed by IDF soldiers during a clash in Kfar Haras near Hebron on Sunday night. (AP)

Norwegian UNIFIL troops block IDF unit

An IDF unit was forced to halt its patrol in the eastern sector of the security zone on Sunday night, after soldiers in the UNIFIL Norwegian battalion blocked its way. In response, the IDF decided to prevent the Norwegian troops from moving about the area.

Yesterday a meeting was held between IDF and Norwegian liaison officers, who defused the situation and restored the previous freedom of movement of both sides. Senior commanders from both forces are to meet later in the week over the incident.

On Monday afternoon, guerrillas fired mortar rounds

at IDF and SLA positions in the western sector of the zone without causing casualties or damage.

The IDF Spokesman last night denied Lebanese reports that a school bus had been fired on by IDF troops in the eastern sector. Lebanon has submitted an official complaint on the alleged incident to the Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee.

The committee is to convene today to discuss a complaint by Israel over firing by guerrillas on Friday at populated areas of the zone and at Israeli territory. (Itim)



Palestinians walk past a protest tent near Kfar Yam in the Gaza Strip yesterday. (AP)

Palestinians protest IDF construction of ramparts around Kfar Yam

Palestinians in the Gaza Strip held a demonstration near Kfar Yam yesterday, in protest against work begun by the IDF five days ago to construct ramparts around Gush Katif settlements.

The Palestinians are protesting against what they said was the expropriation of land belonging to the Mawasi tribe, who live near Khan Yulis. After the IDF erected the earth ramparts, Palestinians brought two bulldozers and knocked them down.

The IDF later reconstructed the ramparts, and brought in extra forces. The ramparts were put up to protect the settlements in the event that they are attacked in clashes with the

Palestinians such as those last September.

At the protest gathering yesterday, which was the fifth held at the site in as many days, officials from the Palestinian Authority condemned the Israeli move.

PA official Mazen Izzadin said "the Netanyahu government is using terror and violence against the Palestinian people through expropriation of land and making settlements." He called on Palestinians to fight against this with any means.

Also yesterday, the Khan Yunis Municipality held an emergency session, with the participation of Palestinian Legislative Council members.

to discuss what it called the "Israeli take-over of Palestinian land in the Gaza Strip."

Meanwhile, the IDF has held discussions with the Palestinian Police about the ramparts. The IDF clarified to the Palestinians that the land used for the ramparts is under Israel's security control.

However, the Palestinians have refused to accept this position, comparing the move to the start of Israeli construction of Jewish housing on Har Homa, in southeastern Jerusalem. Palestinians in the Khan Yunis area claim that Israel plans to use the land taken for the ramparts to construct a new settlement in Gush Katif. (Itim)

Poll: Support for Palestinian state increasing

About half of all Israelis - the highest level ever - support the establishment of a Palestinian state, according to a poll released Sunday.

The poll, conducted by the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, also found that the number of Israelis opposed to returning any of the Golan Heights to Syria has dropped sharply in recent years.

Fifty-one percent of Israelis polled said Israel should agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the context of a peace treaty.

The poll, of 1,216 Israelis, had a margin of error of 2.8 percentage points.

Professor Asher Arian, who directed the survey, said the number of Israelis supporting the establishment of a Palestinian state has inched up steadily since the annual poll was first taken in 1984. A decade ago, only 20% of Israelis supported a Palestinian state, he said. Last year, about 48% did.

"It's a very major change," he said. "And it's only one of a number of indicators of continued and growing support for the peace

process."

The poll found that 60% of Israelis believe Palestinians want peace, up 20% from last year, Arian said. Thirty-one percent of those polled - an all-time low - opposed returning any of the Golan, which Israel captured in 1967, to Syria. That was down from 35% last year, and 40% in 1995, Arian said. Before that, the percentage opposed to returning any of the Golan had remained steady at about 50%.

Arian said he believes the apparent increase in flexibility on the Golan comes from the opening of talks with the Syrians, even those talks have now been stalled for more than a year, and the peace accords with the Palestinians.

Other poll findings: Seventy percent support the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreements, up from 66% a year earlier. Negotiating with the PLO was supported by 89%, up from 65 percent in 1996 and 53% in 1994. Nineteen percent believe that "the Arabs want to destroy the state and kill as many Jews as they can," down from 28 percent in 1996 and 49 percent in 1991. (AP)

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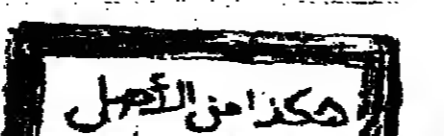
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Beilin, Arafat discuss peace moves

By SARAH HONG and news agencies

Labor Party leadership candidate MK Yossi Beilin held talks with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Jericho on Sunday and outlined a formula for breaking the impasse in the peace process.

Beilin discussed a three-point initiative with Arafat. Under the plan, both sides would avoid unilateral acts that violate the letter or spirit of the Oslo Accords of 1993:

- Israel would stop building Jewish settlements.
- Both sides would make a supreme effort to prevent violence and terrorism.
- Israel would immediately carry out a pullback from West Bank rural areas approved by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet in March, agree with Palestinians on a second pullback due in September, and enter into final-status and security talks with them.

Asked if the government would consider Beilin's initiative, Netanyahu's senior policy adviser David Bar-Illan told Reuters: "No... Beilin cannot negotiate on behalf of the government."

A PLO official said Arafat accepted the initiative, though Palestinians are pessimistic about its prospects.

"It's just an attempt by the Labor Party to help resolve the crisis. Nothing can be taken seriously unless it comes from the Israeli government," said the official.

Beilin's meeting with Arafat was part of a series of meetings with



Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and Labor Party leadership candidate MK Yossi Beilin meet in Jericho on Sunday. Arafat told reporters the peace process is in crisis over Israel's settlement policy. (Reuters)

foreign leaders and representatives, including a meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa in Cairo and the EU envoy Miguel Angel Moratinos.

In all of his meetings Beilin was accompanied by two originators of the Oslo agreement - Yair Hirschfeld and Ron Pundak. He said his meetings were geared to push forward his plan to "rescue the peace process from its lowest point ever since the beginning of the Oslo process."

However, Beilin's initiative was censured by the Foreign Ministry. A senior Foreign Ministry source expressed amazement that "someone unauthorized to represent the state and speak on its behalf, so brazenly seeks to put in motion a duplicate foreign policy, as if the government had not existed and as if he is empowered to steer the country's foreign policy."

After meeting his meeting with Arafat in Jericho on Sunday morning, Beilin reported that "I have never seen him so depressed and so full of despair about the prospects for peace."

NEWS

in brief

Rahat teenager drowns off Ashkelon

A 17-year-old Beduin teenager from Rahat apparently drowned off Ashkelon yesterday afternoon. He had been swimming in a prohibited area and was swept out to sea. Other swimmers summoned help, and police, used a boat to search for him, but did not find his body. *Itim*

Nigerian cocaine ring exposed

Police have arrested seven people, most of them Nigerian nationals here illegally, on suspicion of importing and distributing cocaine in the central region and forging passports.

At the beginning of the month, police arrested four of the Nigerians, who were found with 700 grams of cocaine, electronic scales, official visa stamps and forged passports. This led to the arrest of three others, one of whom has dual Yugoslavian and Israeli citizenship. Police have recovered 17 passports forged by the gang. Several of the suspects were remanded in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court on Friday, when a ban on publishing details of the arrests was removed. *Itim*

Manbar's remand extended for 10 days

Businessman Nahum Manbar, suspected of security crimes, was remanded for another 10 days on Friday by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court. The hearing was held behind closed doors. *Itim*

Or Akiva man indicted for attempted murder

Isaac Isacov, 68, of Or Akiva, was charged by Haifa District Court on Sunday with attempting to murder Eliahu Vaknin on March 30 by burning him to death. Prosecutor Avital Bin-Nun told the court Isacov came to Vaknin's home apparently to collect money he was owed and invited Vaknin to accompany him to a nearby grove. There he poured a flammable liquid over him and set him alight, Bin-Nun said. Vaknin suffered third-degree burns over half his body and is still in the intensive care ward at Tel Hashomer's Sheba Hospital. Bin-Nun asked the court to remand Isacov through the end of proceedings. *Itim*

Morocco may close Mideast secretariat

RABAT (Reuters) - Morocco, in a clear sign of frustration at lack of Middle East political and economic development, is looking at closing a secretariat set up three years ago to promote progress.

Secretary-General Mustafa Terrab, who heads the secretariat created after a US and Russian-sponsored summit in Casablanca, said yesterday that Morocco feels the spirit of that summit has been lost.

"The Casablanca declaration was very clear on the fact that the Palestinian situation is central to this whole process," Terrab said, referring to plans to twin economic progress and political advances in the Middle East.

Under the declaration, a regional bank and councils for business and tourism were to be set up. The Rabat-based secretariat was to oversee economic summits and help implement decisions on trade and investment.

These were to go hand-in-hand with political progress on peace between Israel and the Arab countries, partners in the Casablanca summit.

"Ironically, if in 1994 this was visionary, now it is not only visionary - it is a priority," said Terrab. He said Morocco's decision to look at whether to keep the secretariat was not a reaction to political strains following Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to authorize building a Jewish neighborhood in Jerusalem.

"What I refer to as realities on the ground are not the latest political developments, but rather the slow degradation of economic conditions within the Palestinian territories," he said. "That is not a new development, but something we have had to live with for past years."

Terrab said Morocco feels its partners have not provided enough support either materially or for the "spirit" of what was supposed to follow the Casablanca summit - a mixture of economic and political advancement in the Middle East.

"Had that public-private partnership logic been taken seriously, there would have been more enthusiasm and more concrete support for what the secretariat is trying to achieve," he said.

Children's theater festival prizes

By HELEN KAYE

Vegar Ze'ev in Kever (And the Wolf Shall Lie Down with the Lamb), by Hamutal Ben-Ze'ev-Efron, won Best Production and Best Play at the Haifa Children's Theater Festival that ended over the weekend.

The production prize, worth NIS 12,000, was donated by Rivka Markel, wife of the late Mattityahu Markel, who was Haifa City Engineer. The show also garnered Best Costumes for designer Anat Messner. Prize for Best Director went to Hanoch Reim for *Panther in the Cellar* by Pinna Geri based on the book by Amos Oz, and Hani Vardi won Best Lighting design for the same show.

Roy Horowitz (*Panther*) and Asher Sivan (*Zollet Nesihot* - Princess Gobbler) shared the Best Actor award. Bishara al-Hal won Best Music for his score, with Erica Sapir getting Best Set and Miki Mevorah honorable mention directing for *Antonie Rim*.

Zollet Nesihot also got honorable mentions in the production, music, and movement categories with playwright Ben-Ze'ev Efron also getting honorable mention for her adaptation of Brecht's *The Good Person of Szechuan*.

Palestinian man found guilty in Miami hijack case

MIAMI (Reuters) - A Palestinian man faces 20 years in a US prison for air piracy after a jury found him guilty on Friday of using a fake bomb and a makeshift knife to divert a Havana-bound Spanish airliner to Miami last July.

The 12-member panel deliberated for about four hours before delivering a guilty verdict against Saad o Mohamed Ibrahim Intissar, 28. A sentencing hearing was set for August 11.

Ibrahim's attorney, Joaquin Mendez, had argued that Ibrahim diverted Iberia Flight 6621 on July 26 because he desperately wanted

to avoid going to Cuba for military training and had no choice but to hijack the plane.

Mendez said Ibrahim, who was born in a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon, had feared what might await him in Cuba because he was being sent to the Communist-ruled island by an organization he contended was associated with the Iranian-supported Hizbullah organization.

Cuba's Foreign Ministry subsequently denied the allegations.

Assistant US Attorney Rick Carey, lead counsel for the prosecution, said evidence had not sup-

ported the defense's contention that Ibrahim had no other option.

"The factual evidence kind of put that in dispute. The evidence showed that there were opportunities that he could have taken short of this act of violence," he said. "He had a chance to bail out of this act at some point, but didn't."

Under federal sentencing guidelines, Ibrahim faces a minimum sentence of 20 years in prison, although that could be increased because he used a weapon. He would not face deportation until he had served his sentence, Carey said.

LEVY

Continued from Page 1

talks with Jordanian officials in Amman on ending the impasse in Arab-Israeli peace talks.

"My visit to Jordan aims to assess the peace process in view of difficulties that are confronting it and to discuss ways of putting the process back on track," Moratinos said.

He spoke with reporters after a meeting with Prime Minister

Abdul-Salam Majali. He did not mention any new initiatives.

The state-run Petra news agency said Moratinos spoke with Crown Prince Hassan about ways to restart Palestinian-Israeli peace talks.

It quoted Moratinos as saying the European Union is seeking to find a "common ground" to restore the talks that derailed in March, when Israel began construction of 6,500 homes for Jews in Jerusalem.

The official Egyptian daily *Al-Ahram* reported Sunday that President Hosni Mubarak is willing to host a summit for Jordan's King Hussein, Syrian President Hafez Assad, and Arafat to discuss an Arab peace initiative.

PA Planning Minister Nabil Sha'ath praised the Egyptian summit initiative, saying it is essential to discuss ways to rescue the peace process from its present deadlock.

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Texas separatists under siege

By MARK BABINECK

FORT DAVIS (AP) — A militant Texas separatist group swapped two hostages for a jailed member yesterday, more than 12 hours after invading a neighbor's home and triggering a standoff with police.

But the self-styled Republic of Texas "ambassador" said the group wouldn't give up and was "digging in."

"They released one of our people, our captain," Richard McLaren told the *San Antonio Express-News* by cell phone from his trailer "embassy" in the rugged Davis Mountains of west Texas.

"He's back at the embassy. All our boys are back. We're digging in." The Republic released hostages Joe Rowe and his wife, Margaret Ann Rowe, in a swap for Robert Jonathan Scheidt who was arrested on a weapons violation, Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Lauren Chernow said.

At least three dozen police who surrounded the remote subdivision called Davis Mountains Resort remained in position and planned to resume negotiations with the group later yesterday, Mrs. Chernow said.

The Republic of Texas contends that the annexation of Texas as a state in 1845 was illegal, that Texas should remain an independent nation, and that the group's leaders constitute the legitimate government of the independent nation of Texas. Texas was an independent republic from 1836 to 1845.

Similar anti-government sentiments have given rise to armed

militias across the country. The Montana Freemen, who also considered themselves a separate government with their own court system, held federal agents at bay for 81 days in a standoff at their ranch in the spring of 1996.

Reporters were kept at a rest stop several km from the entrance to the site, 350 km south of El Paso, the nearest major city.

Joe Rowe was in stable condition in an Alpine hospital after a minor gunshot wound to the shoulder.

The standoff began about noon Sunday, McLaren said hours later that the Rowes would be released in exchange for two Republic members: Scheidt, a 43-year-old identified as "captain of the embassy guard," and Jo Ann Canady Turner, arrested in Austin last week on two contempt charges. Ms. Turner remained in custody.

McLaren demanded another concession.

"We want them to ... agree to a referendum to allow Texans to vote on the independence issue," he told San Antonio radio station WOAI.

McLaren apparently was not part of the assault on the Rowes and remained about 24 km away at a ramshackle trailer surrounded by trees. Richard Keys, the "militia lieutenant commander," claimed to be in charge at the Rowe house.

The group refused to specify its numbers. The DPS declined to speculate.

Ms. Chernow said the Rowes' home, which overlooks the only road into the development, remained occupied yesterday.

Although the hostages were released, other residents remained in about 90 homes scattered over thousands of hectares of rugged high-desert terrain.

Some residents said they were afraid to travel the road because it would mean passing the Rowe house.

"We would like to advise them to stay calm," DPS spokeswoman Lucila Torres said of the residents.

Neighbors were complaining for months about McLaren, a wild-haired, lanky 43-year-old man who filed property liens against them and threatened them with machine guns. He has avoided an arrest warrant since last December for filing bogus liens.

"We've been telling people ... this was going to happen," said neighbor Michelle Behrendt. "They (authorities) sat on their thumbs and did nothing." Last month, McLaren threatened to fight back against the government and compared his situation to fatal standoffs at Waco, Texas, and Ruby Ridge, Idaho.

"These boys are asking for a total military assault," McLaren said in an interview. "Our defense forces will fire because we would consider it an invasion." McLaren represents one of three Republic factions that resulted from a split over tactics and finances late last year.

Last month, one faction "impeached" McLaren. And a message on a World Wide Web site attributed to the Republic of Texas read: "It appears that Richard McLaren and those acting with him have gone completely off the deep end."



The Iraq Workers' Union holds a procession in Baghdad Sunday in the runup to Saddam Hussein's birthday today. (AP)

Iraq marks Saddam's birthday

BAGHDAD (Renter) — Iraq's official media marked President Saddam Hussein's 60th birthday yesterday with poems and articles praising their leader as "a blessing from God."

Loadspeakers in streets of the capital blared out: "Blessed be your birthday, our beloved leader. May God add from our age to yours." Iraqi television showed pictures of Saddam touring the countryside, meeting armed forces and visiting schools and universities.

Shebab Television, run by Saddam's eldest son Uday who was crippled in a shooting last December, changed its name to "Birthday TV" and ran special programs to mark the occasion.

Saddam has been in power since 1979 and led Iraq through two wars — an eight-year conflict with Iran and then the 1991 Gulf war which ended with the ouster of Iraqi troops from Kuwait by American-led forces.

Baghdad radio ran special programs conducting interviews with writers and ordinary citizens who pledged loyalty to Saddam and backed his fight against what they deemed an unfair embargo imposed by the United Nations after the seizure of Kuwait.

Newspapers ran commentaries praising Saddam for standing up to "the tyranny of Washington."

Iraq twice defied the United Nations and Washington this month, first by flying a plane-load of haj pilgrims to Saudi Arabia and then by sending helicopters through the West's no-fly zones to the Saudi border to take them home.

Baghdad papers said the day was coming close to have the UN trade sanctions lifted whether Washington liked it or not.

The papers said celebrations were held in villages, towns and cities across Iraq, in every provincial center. Baath party officials and crowds of people took part, handing out free cakes, chocolates and beverages.

A new mosque was opened in Saddam's home town of Tikrit and the foundation stone laid for another in Baghdad.

Tens of thousands of Iraqis staged a huge parade yesterday in Tikrit which is 170 km north of Baghdad.

The parade was attended by almost all Iraqi leaders except Saddam, Izzat Ibrahim, Vice-President of the Revolutionary Command Council, presided over the ceremonies. In recent years they have been turned into one of Iraq's national festivals.

Young girls wearing Arab and Kurdish costumes danced and sang a birthday song, groups of military men paraded in front of Ibrahim and formations of air force planes and helicopter gunships flew over the agricultural town.

On the road to Tikrit farmers and tribal chieftains had pitched large tents with cauldrons of rice and stewed meat offering free meals to well-wishers.

Fuhrman headed anti-female cop group

NEW YORK (AP) — Disgraced former Los Angeles police Detective Mark Fuhrman was the "Grand Dragon" of an anti-female police group and wore a hooded "tribunal" held to punish male officers who refused to shun female officers, the *Daily News* reported yesterday.

Fuhrman, whose bigoted taped comments were a major part of O.J. Simpson's criminal trial, described putting on a hooded sweatshirt to preside at beer-fueled mock trials held at night at a baseball field, the paper said.

"I am the Grand Dragon. The

"Hood" is what we call it," Fuhrman said in never-released portions of the tapes cited by the *Daily News*.

Fuhrman's racist remarks on the tapes led to his plea of no-contest to a perjury charge last year.

However in his book, *Murder in Brentwood*, Fuhrman said he exaggerated on the tapes to impress an aspiring screenwriter.

The *Daily News* said in the tapes Fuhrman revealed his leadership in Men Against Women, an all-male club of LAPD officers that ostracized female police to drive them from the force.

Chretien calls early Canada poll

OTTAWA (AP) — Confident that opposition parties are too weak to oust him, Prime Minister Jean Chretien has announced a federal election will be held June 2 — a year and half before his five-year term expires.

Chretien's foes, who were anticipating the announcement for weeks, complain there is no justification for an early election other than his Liberal Party's eagerness to win another mandate. No other government with a majority in parliament has called an election so early in four decades.

Though Chretien's popularity has ebbed slightly after record-high ratings through his first three years in office, the middle-of-the-road Liberals remain the only party with substantial support across the country.

Recent polls show the Liberals' support at around 45 percent, compared to between 10 and 16 percent each for the four rival parties.

Experts predict the Liberals will win between 180 and 220 seats in new House of Commons, which is expanding from 295 to 301 seats. The Liberals now hold 175 seats.

Mogul seeks big films

BONN (AP) — Leo Kirch, the financially strapped German media tycoon, is reportedly seeking to buy television rights to major movies, including classics such as *Gone with the Wind* and *Ben Hur*, from MGM studios.

The envisaged deal, worth several hundred million dollars, would give Kirch the German-language area pay-TV rights for a package of MGM productions for 10 years, the newsweekly *Der Spiegel* said yesterday. The deal also includes future Bond movies.

Spokesman Johannes Schmitz confirmed yesterday that Kirch Gruppe is negotiating with MGM, but declined to give details.

Kirch is in financial difficulties after British Sky Broadcasting pulled out of Kirch Gruppe's DFL digital pay-TV project in Germany, which failed to capture a wide audience.

Serial killer evidence lacking

MONS, Belgium (AP) — A court ruled yesterday there is insufficient evidence to detain a man accused of cutting up the bodies of up to five women, setting back the investigation into the serial killings.

But the 33-year-old man will remain behind bars for another two weeks because the prosecutor immediately appealed the decision.

The man lived in a trailer park close to where some of the body parts were dumped over the past month and was the last boyfriend of one of the victims.

He was arrested April 22 and accused of murdering that woman, Nathalie Godart, whose severed head

and limbs were found at several locations around Mons, 60 km south of Brussels.

His attorney said "there is nothing concrete to link him to the crime," he said.

In the past month, the remains of at least four — possibly five — women have been found in 15 garbage bags. The killer disposed of all in the same way, surgically cutting up the victims before dumping them.

Many of the body parts were found in locations with macabre names: the rivers Hate and Fear, Anxiety Lane and Saint Symphonien Street, named after a beheaded martyr.

Thatcher reassures Hong Kong democrat

HONG KONG (AP) — Margaret Thatcher, Britain's former prime minister, met with Hong Kong's foremost democrat yesterday and assured him she would speak up for the freedoms China has promised the colony.

Mrs. Thatcher spent an hour with Martin Lee, leader of the Democratic Party, at the official residence of Gov. Chris Patten, a statement said.

It said she told Lee that "I will continue to speak up for Hong

Kong's freedoms, its rule of law and its elected legislature" after China takes over on July 1.

Lee's party is the largest in the legislature, but objects to China's plans to disband the assembly and refuses to sit on the temporary Chinese-organized legislature that will replace it.

Lee said he believed Mrs. Thatcher "is very concerned to see that basic freedoms are not rolled back."

"She believes that the solemn international promises made to Hong Kong people in 1984 must be honored, and honored in full," he said in a statement.

Mrs. Thatcher signed the 1984 agreement with China that returns Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty. The agreement promises to keep Hong Kong's capitalist economy, legal system and civil liberties.

Mrs. Thatcher arrived in Hong Kong Sunday to open the Tsing Ma suspension bridge, the world's longest rail-and-road span.

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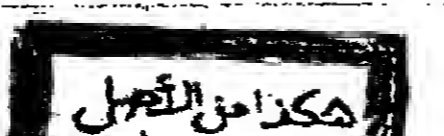
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Yemen's ruling party takes lead in election

By ANTHONY SHADID

SANAA (AP) — The party of President Ali Abdullah Saleh won a majority of the districts counted yesterday in parliament elections in Yemen, the Arabian Peninsula's most democratic country.

With 49 of 301 constituencies decided, Saleh's General People's Congress had won 33 seats. Its principal foe, the Islamic Islah party, took nine seats and independents won seven, according to a monitoring group with the Supreme Elections Committee.

The committee later announced that no more returns would be released until today. Said al-Hakimi, a spokesman for the committee, said a high turnout and the large number of symbols used to represent candidates on the ballot delayed the counting.

The Congress and Islah are expected to

win the most seats.

The election marked Yemen's first vote since a two-month civil war in 1994 almost tore apart the union four years earlier of the conservative, traditional North and socialist South. It was tarnished by violence that killed 11 people and a boycott by followers of the Yemen Socialist Party in the South.

In the worst incident, a guard at a polling station in Mukayras in southern Yemen opened fire on fellow guards and election workers hours before the polls opened, killing eight and wounding one. Interior Minister Hussein Mohammed Arab said.

The minister called it "a criminal act" and said the soldier was arrested. Polling officials and election monitors suggested he went berserk before the rampage in the room where the people slept.

More than 2,300 candidates competed, about two-thirds of them independents.

Turnout was about 80 percent, al-Hakimi said.

"With the success of the elections ... democracy has become the political system for the Yemeni republic," an editorial in the pro-government *Al-Thawra* said yesterday.

Many Yemenis saw the vote as an indicator of whether their fledgling democracy could endure in this poor country on the southern rim of the Arabian Peninsula. The legacy of the war still weighs heavily on residents of the port of Aden, the South's former capital which has become a backwater.

There, some residents declared they would follow the lead of the Yemen Socialist Party and boycott the vote.

But elsewhere, there was enthusiasm for the election, by far the freest in the peninsula's otherwise bleak landscape. In more than a quarter of the polling stations, voting went an extra two hours as allowed by law, election monitors said.

"My opinion is the opinion of the country, we are exercising our rights," said Sadeq Rashid, a 21-year-old student voting at a school where lines wrapped around the building even before polls opened.

In a country with three times as many guns as people, violence was also a worry. Arab, who is responsible for security, said three of the people killed Sunday had been in fights blamed on vendettas. But foreign and local election monitors insisted that two were killed in a clash between supporters of rival candidates, one of whom was angry over the symbol he had to use on the ballot.

Election monitors said the violations did not seriously interfere with the voting.

"The process was highly transparent and open," said the Elections Monitoring Committee, an independent group.

During the campaign, the economy emerged as the biggest issue.

Chinese police kill 2 Moslems in riot shooting

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese police in a region shaken by separatists killed two people and wounded five when they fired on a crowd of Moslems who surrounded buses taking convicted rioters to jail, an official said yesterday.

The shooting in Yining city, in the northwestern region of Xinjiang, followed a public rally at which three people were sentenced to death and 27 others to prison for involvement in anti-Chinese riots in February.

A crowd of Uighurs, Xinjiang's Moslem majority, surrounded and blocked buses carrying the convicted rioters and ignored police warnings to disperse, said an official at the Communist Party's headquarters for Xinjiang, who gave only his surname, Zang.

"After the sentencing rally, they surrounded the buses," Zang said in a telephone interview from Urumqi, Xinjiang's capital. "We warned them. Eventually we opened fire." He said two people were killed and five wounded.

The crowd may have been "emotional because their relations and children had been arrested," Zang said.

The three people sentenced to death at the rally in a sports stadium were executed the same day.

The prison terms of the other 27 ranged from seven years to life.

The newspaper *Hong Kong Standard* said the crowd that surrounded the buses numbered 500. But Zang said only several dozen "criminal elements" took part.

He said authorities were investigating whether the trouble was related to Moslem separatists in Xinjiang. Xinjiang's Uighurs and other Moslem ethnic groups have grown increasingly resentful of Chinese rule and settlers in recent years.

The riots in Yining Feb. 5 and 6, when crowds of young Moslems beat people to death, were among the worst in Xinjiang since the 1949 Communist takeover.

At least 10 people were killed and 140 injured, by official count.

Uighurs living in exile in Kazakhstan claim to be funneling money and weapons to separatists in Xinjiang. The Uighurs ran their own republic in Xinjiang for five years before 1949.

Kazak police arrested 33 Uighurs yesterday for staging an illegal demonstration outside the Chinese Embassy in Almaty. The demonstrators were protesting the executions in Yining last week.

Coalition leads polls in France

PARIS (Reuters) — Two opinion polls yesterday showed France's center-right coalition heading for a narrow majority in next month's parliamentary elections but found about one-third of voters could change their minds.

A poll for France 2 television said that if the May 25-June 1 election were held now, the ruling RPR-UDF coalition would win 296 of the 555 seats in metropolitan France, the Socialists 238, the Communists 18, the ecologists two and the extreme-right National Front one.

The poll, taken over the weekend with a sample of 1,030 registered voters, gave the following voting intentions on the first round: UDF-RPR 39 percent; Socialists and others on the left 28%; National Front 14%; Communists 10%; ecologists 7% and extreme left 2%.

Seventeen percent of those who said they were certain to vote did not express a voting intention. Of those who did, 38% said they could still change their minds.

A weekend poll on a sample of 889 registered voters, gave the following voting intentions: UDF-RPR and other right 40%; Socialists and other left 26%; National Front 15%; Communists 14%; ecologists 7% and extreme left 2%.



Indonesian leftists on trial
The chairman of the left-wing Indonesian People's Democratic Party Budman Sudjatmiko (center) is manhandled by security guards as he leaves Central Jakarta State Court yesterday. More than 100 supporters of Sudjatmiko and other leftists on trial for their part in anti-government protests scuffled with police outside the court. (Reuters)

Relentless Blair rallies troops

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister John Major flew to Northern Ireland and Scotland yesterday to stress his commitment to the United Kingdom, an issue he has emphasized in the waning days of the election campaign.

Major's journey, with plans for a stop in Wales, underlined his opposition to Labor's plans for "devolution" of some legislative responsibilities to assemblies in Wales and Scotland.

Major's party leader Tony Blair attacked the government's record on health yesterday and warned supporters against overconfidence as the May 1 election nears.

"The UK has four components. The interest of the government extends to every part of the UK and we are concerned with the security of the UK," Major said in Belfast.

"I think there is something slightly absurd about Mr. Major touring round the UK saying that Scottish devolution is a disaster for the UK when what he proposes for Northern Ireland is precisely that same devolution," Blair said.

Major's government and the Irish government have jointly proposed a form of self-government for Northern Ireland, but have said they will support any agreement reached in all-party negotiations.

Labor supports government policy, and Northern Ireland has not been a campaign issue.

With opinion polls continuing to show a large and steady Labor lead, some newspapers turned their attention yesterday to reports of rifts within the governing party and speculation about how quickly Major would stand down as party leader after a defeat.

Opinion polls, including one by Gallup published yesterday which showed Labor 19 points ahead, point to the possibility of a landslide on the scale of 1945, when Labor crushed the Conservatives led by Winston Churchill.

At his morning news conference, Blair focused on the government's program of introducing market system into the National Health Service, which was created by that 1945 government.

"I fear for the future of the NHS if the Tories get back in," he said.

Separatists lose out in Italy vote

ROME (Reuters) — Both of Italy's main political blocs claimed success yesterday from weekend local elections, which saw opposition parties lead in the key northern cities of Milan and Turin but gave government allies a boost in the provinces.

The big loser was the separatist Northern League, which lost control of Italy's second city, Milan, and was ousted from power from the three provincial governments it had previously run.

According to provisional results, the center-right Freedom Alliance secured a first round lead in the most prestigious battles for mayors in the wealthy cities of Milan and Turin, pushing government coalition candidates into second place.

Both contests go to second round run-offs on May 11.

Refugees return to Zaire camps

BIARU, Zaire — Thousands of Rwandan Hutu refugees returned yesterday to camps south of the Zairean city of Kisangani they fled last week, while dozens of compatriots who died in the exodus lay unburied, witnesses said.

Aid officials and journalists who managed to visit Biaru camp, 40 km south of Kisangani city, saw about 5,000 refugees drifting out of the forest back to their camps.

The US ambassador to the United Nations flew to Zaire yesterday and said he would meet with both President Mobutu Sese Seko and the rebel leader who is trying to unseat him.

Bill Richardson said he would meet with the ailing president today, then travel to the rebel-held southern city of Lubumbashi tomorrow to talk with rebel leader Laurent Kabila.

"The US administration believes there can be no military solution, but rather a negotiated settlement," he told reporters when he arrived in Kinshasa, the capital.

Efforts in recent weeks to arrange a meeting between Kabila and Mobutu have failed, though officials say talks between the two men could take place this week in neighboring Gabon.

Richardson said he also would try to help get relief supplies to the 100,000 Rwandan refugees in eastern Zaire.

"There have been reports of human rights abuse and massacres. This must end," he said.

Since October, Kabila's forces have seized half of the Central African country in a bid to topple Mobutu. Some 100,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees have fled each rebel advance, convinced the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire is out to exterminate them with the backing of the Tutsi Rwandan government.

The refugees are among the more than 1 million Hutus who fled Rwanda in 1994, fearing reprisals for the country's state-orchestrated genocide that killed at least 500,000 people, mostly Tutsis and moderate Hutus. Most have since returned to Rwanda.

Human rights organizations accused the rebels of killing refugees and terrorizing their camps.

After talks with UN officials in the eastern city of Kisangani, Kabila abruptly gave the United Nations two months to track down and evacuate the 100,000 refugees still on the run.

Rebels advancing on Kinshasa were closing in on the provincial town of Kikwit yesterday and local authorities asked government soldiers to lay down their arms, residents said.

"Kikwit is on the point of falling. There is no panic and people are calm," said a resident in radio contact with Kinshasa.

Indian leaders face charges

NEW DELHI (AP) — Federal investigators have decided to prosecute leaders of the governing coalition, casting a shadow over new Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's government.

Reports yesterday said leaders of the coalition's main ally also have been targeted in the scandal, which involves the theft of \$138 million from a state treasury.

The accused include the president of Gujral's Janata Dal party and a regional leader of his United Front coalition's main supporter, the Congress Party.

The list of 56 accused also includes Chandradeo Prasad Varma, Gujral's Cabinet minister for rural areas and employment.

IRA prisoners free hostage

BELFAST (AP) — Two prisoners held a guard hostage at gunpoint for four hours yesterday at Maghaberry prison, a medium-security facility designed to coax terrorists away from their organizations.

The Northern Ireland Office said the men gave up after negotiations with senior prison staff. One prisoner had a handgun and the other had a fake gun.

Guards at Maghaberry, 40 km west of Belfast, are unarmed precisely to avoid having their weapons taken by inmates.

The incident was in one of the prison's four residential-style compounds where prisoners have their own kitchens, TVs and stereos and live in a politically mixed environment — Irish republicans and pro-British "loyalists" together.

A security source said the two were convicted members of the outlawed Irish National Liberation Army, a splinter of the IRA.

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7 The Jerusalem Post
Poles apart

RICHARD CHESNOR

A visit to East Europe
Jewish communities
bittersweet journey
scientific cultural, religious
truly flow again. More than
million Jews lived in Poland
the eve of World War II.
today's organized communities
less than 5000, and
souls.

What better time than Passover
celebrate the young voices
heard among the young
century I joined hundreds
crowded into the old Yiddish
water on the site of the Warsaw
 ghetto to watch consumed the
celebrate Purim—the Jewish
celebration of salvation from
the Persians.

Throughout Eastern Europe
of Communism has led to
new interest in Jewish life
ch of the credit for this
Jewish renaissance goes to
Joint Distribution Committee
the Ronald S. Lauder
Foundation.

Budapest, the Lauder-
sponsored Jewish School, with
500 students, is now consid-
ered among the best in the
region capital.
Prague and Bucharest plan
underway for new Jewish
centers. And in Warsaw
Lauder-Morasha School, an
American director, Peter
Kerem, will host close to
100 children next year.
Historian Yale Robert
Kerem's husband, is among
under-sponsored genealogical
societies that work out of
New York's famed Jewish
Genetic Institute. Using a
database of original documents
and copies of Schindler's
List, Kerem is helping people
with long-lost relatives.
Many cases, those seeking
relatives who only recently dis-
covered that they were actually
children hidden in
Poland.

are the heirs
1,000 years of
Jewish history?

search and search for me
at an auctioneer's sale
European government has
agreed to return to Poland
part of the wealth of looted
artifacts stolen from the
Nazis and their
Polish President
Lech Kaczyński with
a law that will sign a new law
that facilitates the return
of 100,000 artifacts
of hundreds of European
artifacts and other
artifacts was
the efforts of the
Polish-Jewish
Organization
and a potential
of the WJRO and the
Federation of Jewish
Professionals.

STSCRIPT

Up by Prosperity, U.S. Struts Its Stuff

By LOUIS UCHITELLE

NOT so long ago, Americans were envious of Japan. Its products seemed so superior, its corporate practices so effective. Western Europe, too, spawned juggernaut industrial economies. And looking abroad, Americans were caught up in self-criticism. For all the wealth of their own giant system, it seemed pitiful and helpless. And they turned to emulation.

The mood has flipped, of course. Triumph and self-satisfaction are the rising American themes. Profits are strong, unemployment low, jobs multiplying, inflation inconsequential, the stock market booming, product quality much improved. Japan, by comparison, is digging itself out of a stock market crash and a collapse in real estate prices. And almost everywhere in Western Europe, sluggish economies and high unemployment make for something less than paradise.

It is corporate America that now demands emulation. After years of travail, this country has finally fielded the right formula for generating wealth and prosperity in the highly competitive global economy. Or so the argument goes. And just as Americans once spoke of emulation, there is talk now in Japan, Germany and France of emulating the United States. Some companies are even doing so.

'Let Us Celebrate'

The self-congratulation emerging from this comparison is exuberant. "We are the most flexible, adaptable economy on earth," declared Bruce Steinberg, chief economist at Merrill Lynch & Company. "Let us celebrate an American triumph," wrote Mortimer B. Zuckerman, the real estate developer and publisher, in an editorial in U.S. News & World Report, which he owns. "The mantra," he added, "is privatize, deregulate and do not interfere with the market."

But real life is more complicated. Despite the triumphalism, various statistics measuring national wealth do not show conclusively that the American model is the best. What's more, the American edge today might be cyclical. While the United States is in the seventh year of a recovery, Japan and Western Europe are just beginning to emerge from years of recession or weak economic growth. The roles can reverse. Then, too, some of Europe's problems seem

temporary. Rebuilding eastern Germany has dragged down Germany as a whole. And the steps being taken to bring about European union and a common currency have been a drag on national economies. Once they disappear, so could the American lead, along with the claim that it is the enduring result of a better formula for doing business. The jury, in sum, is still out. "We must take a longer perspective," said Dani Rodrik, an expert in international economics at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. "Our triumphalism is actually an obstacle because it prevents us from seeing problems that in fact need to be addressed."

The essence of the American formula, as described by its corporate boosters, is this: Business must be free to innovate, restructure, relocate. Those are necessary ingredients for baking an ever larger pie, however distasteful the downsizing and wage inequality that are part of the process. Only Britain, closer to the American model than the others, escapes some of the malaise.

By comparison, in this view, the Japanese and Europeans, constrained by custom and law, field a faulty model. They are held back by uniform pay scales, strong unions, generous unemployment insurance, costly benefits, and anti-efficient regulations that limit shopping hours, for example, or prevent entrepreneurs from rapidly establishing new ventures. That makes industry too rigid to flourish in this era of rapidly changing technology.

The accuracy of this formulation is enormous importance to millions of Americans. In the name of a successful, laissez faire formula for generating prosperity, most corporate executives justify the painful upheavals that result from income inequality, restructuring, downsizing and relocation to cheaper labor

Continued on Page 3



Edward Keating/The New York Times



Taking No Prisoners
The only good rebel... Not so fast.

By Philip Shenon **2**

Hong Kong Countdown
Some Hong Kongers see opportunity.

By Edward A. Gargan **2**



Poison Gas
Hyperventilating about treaties. As always.

By Adam Clymer **3**

Oklahoma City, the Replay

The Emotional Politics of a Political Trial

By SAM HOWE VERHOVEK

THE bombing of a Federal building in Oklahoma City two years ago was a terrorist act, one that forced Americans into an emotional dialogue about their vulnerability and the home-grown causes of violence. Like all terrorism, the bombing was a political act, and it had political consequences.

Last week the trial of the chief defendant in the case, Timothy J. McVeigh, began in Denver, and the incident is about to be replayed. And, once again, Americans may be reminded that trials can have political fallout, too.

The O. J. Simpson trials, for instance, turned into a national referendum on race and the justice system with, in the end, a painfully split verdict. Mr. Simpson was on trial, but so, it seemed, were the Los Angeles police and the American psyche. The Simpson trials may not have changed anyone's electoral fortunes. But they clearly affected many Americans' views of the system and their relationship with their government. Something similar could be brewing in Denver, where Mr. McVeigh's lawyer, Stephen Jones, promised to put the Government on trial and show that the Federal Bureau of Investigation engaged in "forensic prostitution" by mishandling evidence in its laboratory. Whether this argument will be convincing, legally or politically, is impossible to predict. But the case's history suggests that the possibility should not be dismissed.

The bombing itself, in retrospect, was a milestone in the political recovery of President Clinton, who took the role of Therapist in Chief. And it appears to have dealt a political setback to conservatives, fairly or not.

In early 1995, there was talk of revolution in the air. "The second violent American revolution is just about — I got my fingers about a fourth of an inch apart — is just about that far away," Rush Limbaugh told his talk-radio flock. G. Gordon Liddy, on his program, discussed how to



As Timothy J. McVeigh's trial began, Citizen Scott, an artist, offered mobile political commentary in Denver.

kill Federal agents. On Capitol Hill, the Republicans who had swept to power promised radical change. And by early April, Speaker Newt Gingrich, a self-described "genuine revolutionary," was celebrating the First 100 Days, the beginning of a historic campaign to slash the size and power of the Federal Government.

Then, on April 19, the bomb went off, and opponents of the conservatives started hinting: Could conservative rhetoric possibly have inflamed Mr. McVeigh, a man who had shown an intense hatred of the Government?

Mr. Clinton berated those "loud and angry voices" whose "sole goal seems to be to try to keep some people as paranoid as possible," and Republicans said it was an outrageous attempt to politicize a tragedy. But these weren't just partisan volleys. Kevin Phillips, the conservative author, weighed in: "The G.O.P.," he said, "is falling an old but critical test of U.S. politics: the need for a would-be majority to keep firm control of its fringe groups and radicals."

Polls suggested that Americans firmly rejected any connection between conservative speech and terrorist acts. But the connection was made nevertheless.

Guilt by Association

Even now, many conservatives are still enraged that those who favored cutting the Government were linked in any fashion to those who would blow up buildings. But, they also concede, those linkages were believed.

"Though I think this charge is unfair, it had some resonance out there," says William Kristof, editor of The Weekly Standard and a leading Republican theorist. "Just as McGovern and McGovernism were tainted by some vague perceived association with S.D.S. radicals, and the sense that there wasn't enough of a bright line between the McGovern wing of the Democratic Party and the people who were bombing buildings at the University of Wisconsin."

As the bombing trial unfolds, and prosecutors ex-

Continued on Page 4

The World

In Peru, a Brilliant Rescue Shines No Light on Terror

By PHILIP SHENON

WASHINGTON

AT first blush, it seemed that last week's hostage rescue in Peru could not have been executed more brilliantly. In a lightning raid on the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima, with Peruvian soldiers pouring into the compound through an elaborate maze of newly dug tunnels, all but one of the 72 hostages were led to safety after a four-month siege.

But did the Peruvian Government miss a chance for an even greater strike against terrorism?

Since the rescue, accusations have mounted that soldiers killed several rebels, including two teen-age girls, after they laid down their weapons and tried to surrender. Some of the corpses were mutilated; one was left without head or arms. The Peruvian newspaper *La Republica* reported that an intelligence agent who monitored the raid through listening devices heard two rebels being gunned down as they shouted, "We surrender! We surrender!"

Dead Rebels Don't Talk

There is every indication that the order given to the soldiers by President Alberto K. Fujimori was a simple one: Take no prisoners.

"I think the object was to kill them all, and that's always a mistake," said Vincent Cannistraro, a security consultant who is the former chief of counterterrorism at the Central Intelligence Agency.

"If the objective is defined simply as the rescue of hostages, then this was a major success," Mr. Cannistraro said. "But if the Peruvians had the opportunity to take prisoners and didn't, then they made an important mistake."

Putting aside the obvious questions of human rights and the rule of law — can the execution of a surrendering criminal ever be justified? — counterterrorism specialists say the Peruvians may have missed the chance to obtain valuable information from the rebels, including the identity and where-



Death opened the door for soldiers. The crater in the ambassador's living room, where the initial explosion killed several rebels.

abouts of other guerrillas. "In the training of counterterrorism forces abroad, we always emphasized that intelligence gathering is the most important tactic," Mr. Cannistraro said of his years in the Government.

"When you kill terrorists," he continued, "you deprive yourself of the opportunity to learn about their colleagues, their movements, their support apparatus. Gathering that information should be your overriding priority."

During the vicious civil war in El Salvador in the 1980's, the United States struggled to convince the Salvadoran Army that it should end its practice of summarily executing the

anti-government rebels it captured.

American officials argued to army commanders that by killing prisoners without even a semblance of due process, the Government passed up an intelligence opportunity and, perhaps more important, fostered the perception among the guerrillas that they had only two options — to fight or to die.

That may be the perception now in Peru, which has faced insurgencies in recent years both from the Tupac Amaru and from a much larger and more ruthless guerrilla group, the Maoist-inspired Shining Path.

"That is the risk — that it will encourage the rebels to continue to fight because there is no alternative," said Brian Jenkins, a

terrorism specialist and deputy chairman of Kroll Associates, the private investigation firm. "Certainly remnants of these organizations are capable of terrorist action in the future."

There have already been threats of new terrorist attacks in Peru to avenge the death of the rebels in the Japanese compound, with rebel communiqués hailing the slain guerrillas as martyrs.

President Fujimori may have reasoned that the leftist Tupac Amaru had become so diminished as a threat in recent years that there was no point in taking prisoners, because there was nothing to be gained from the information they might share.

As a result of the raid, most of the rebel group's members are either dead or in jail; the seizure of the Japanese compound in December had been seen from the start as a desperate last-ditch gamble by the group's leader, Néstor Cerna Cartolini. He was killed in the raid, apparently shot in the head as he ran up a flight of stairs.

"The M.R.T.A. is a spent force," said Larry C. Johnson, a former deputy director of the State Department's Office of Counterterrorism, using the initials of the rebel group's name in Spanish. "The leadership is dead or locked up. They took a huge gamble

Taking no prisoners has a cost: getting no information.

In this operation, and they lost. I think this is the effective end of it."

He said that a take-no-prisoners policy was appropriate against terrorists who threatened civilian hostages.

Killing hostage takers even as they try to surrender "doesn't comport with U.S. judicial practice, but if I was in that position, I would have done the same thing," he said. "How do you know if they're really surrendering? How do you know that they're not booby-trapped? How do you know it isn't a ploy to allow them time to pull out a grenade and kill some of your buddies?"

President Fujimori has refused to say exactly what orders he gave to the 150 soldiers who carried out the hostage rescue. But after touring the rubble-strewn compound and stepping over the bullet-riddled bodies of Mr. Cerna and the other rebels, the triumphant Peruvian leader offered not a word of apology.

"We thought that the situation was deteriorating very quickly, so that at any time anything could happen," Mr. Fujimori said. "Facing an armed terrorist, none of the commandos was going to leave himself exposed."

Hong Kong Countdown

If Opportunity Knocks, They'll Be Home



The Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club.



Shopping in a fashionable boutique.



The Long March Bar in the China Club.



As China's takeover approaches, many Hong Kongers who could fly away are staying.

By EDWARD A. GARGAN

HONG KONG

IN 65 days, this free, economically vibrant territory of 6.3 million people — people accustomed to saying what they want, doing what they want and being free to make lots of money — will be surrendered to the embrace of China, a country resolutely anti-democratic, utterly intolerant of free expression and palpably indifferent to the rule of law.

One might think then, given the gathering clouds, that planes here would be packed and ships overloaded with Hong Kongers desperate to leave. On the contrary.

Most Hong Kongers who feared China have already left — those with the means. Millions of others, fearful or merely ambivalent about the change in sovereignty, have no chance of leaving, no chance of finding a new home abroad. But many who do have a choice say it is not obvious they await, but opportunity: opportunity to surf one of Asia's biggest economic waves, a wave swelling on the vast sea of China's economy. For them, it seems inevitable that Hong Kong's prosperity will endure as China's explosive economic growth and trade continue to surge through the territory.

"About two years ago we did consider emigrating, but the more we thought about it, the less attractive it became," said Regina Hui, an accounting manager with a Japanese company, whose husband is also a Hong Konger.

"Hong Kong's economy is definitely stronger than most places," she said. "You see a lot of people returning to Hong Kong after they've emigrated because they can't make much money abroad. It's obvious that Hong Kong is a better place to make a living."

Land of Opportunity

Though few places on earth have less in resources, Hong Kong has led Asia during one of the century's most dramatic periods of economic growth. Particularly since 1979, when China began transforming its economy, Hong Kong became immensely prosperous as China's gateway for foreign investment and trade. Its per capita domestic product long ago surpassed Britain's.

Even today, Hong Kong revels in Horatio Alger tales, personified daily in the business pages of its newspapers. Who here cannot recount how Li Ka-shing began his career making plastic flowers, and now is one of the globe's richest men? You may not be rich, but if anywhere will give you a chance, it is Hong Kong, goes the thinking.

"I briefly considered emigrating," Ivan Yuen, a 32-year-old advertising executive, said. "You can't say I haven't thought about it. During the height of the emigration tide, when I saw my friends leaving Hong Kong one by one, I said to myself, should I go with the trend and leave like everyone else?"

But he continued: "The world's economic focal point is on East Asia, on China. Why would I leave a place which is the financial focus of the world to go somewhere where I

Many Hong Kongers can't leave. Others are staying in the hope that China's embrace will enrich them.

can't use my skills and experience as a marketing and advertising expert?"

It is a common view, yet there are reservoirs of doubt. Fully 45 percent of Hong Kongers say they would leave if, in the words of a recent poll, "changes are unsuitable to you after 1997." But leaving may not be easy.

Britain, which has exercised sovereignty for more than a century and a half, long ago remolded the civil service into an institution of Hong Kongers; the Royal Navy inducted thousands of Hong Kongers into its ranks. Yet as it hastens to furl the Union Jack, the once-great power has been Scrooge-like in extending citizenship to the people who made this the most prosperous of its colonies. Only 50,000 Hong Kong families — barely 3 percent of Hong Kong's 6.3 million people — were granted full British citizenship and the right to settle in Britain; even Hong Kongers who served in the Royal Navy more than two

decades were denied that. "Racism," snapped a senior British official who has long argued that his country should shoulder the responsibilities of colonialism and make everyone here full British citizens. "It's racism pure and simple. Parliament simply won't do it."

Roughly 500,000 Hong Kongers hold foreign passports, and about 190,000 more are in the process of applying for foreign citizenship, according to recent surveys.

Civil Liberties at Risk

But more than half of Hong Kongers say they have family members or close relatives living abroad, and most believe these relatives would help them leave Hong Kong — by, for example, sponsoring them in their countries — if things turned for the worse under Chinese rule. (Meanwhile, mainland Chinese continue to pour into the territory, whose population continues to grow.)

Already rumblings of unease are reverberating through Hong Kong. Three weeks ago, Beijing's choice to run Hong Kong, the shipping tycoon Tung Chee-hwa, announced that certain civil liberties — in particular the right to protest and the right to associate — would be restricted. "We need to renew our commitment to the traditional Chinese values," Mr. Tung said a few days later, explaining that those included an "emphasis on obligations rather than individual rights, and the willingness to sacrifice one's interest for the common good."

"We must constantly remind ourselves," he admonished, "that we are part of China."

At the same time, though, Mr. Tung reassured Hong Kong about its economic life, proclaiming that individual rights, deemed unnecessary in political and civic life, would of course endure in the pursuit of wealth. "Basically, most Hong Kong people of course hope that personal liberties will be protected," said Sunny Lo Shiu Hing, a director of the Hong Kong Transition Project, an inter-university study charting public attitudes and behavior leading up to Chinese rule. "But having said that, the rolling back of civil liberties had been anticipated."

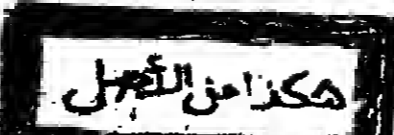
"Most people seem to opt for staying in Hong Kong because Hong Kong is politically stable and economically prosperous."

That is what even the less wealthy of Hong Kongers are betting on. Far from the trading

houses, oen glare and private clubs of central Hong Kong, Heung Su-wai presides over the Lung Wab Restaurant, just off the two lanes of blacktop that skewer Kam Ting Village. At tables covered with flimsy gray tablecloths, piled carelessly with plates of food, laborers hurry through lunches that would cost five times as much in urban Hong Kong eateries. Mr. Heung cast his eye over his harried waiters and shrugged when asked about the impending Chinese sovereignty.

"There's nothing we can do about it," he said, "so why bother talking about it? I don't think things will change all that much." Then, with a sly smile, he added, "Anyway, I'm an Australian citizen."

Like many people here, Mr. Heung has invested abroad — he owns a restaurant in Coonabarabran, New South Wales — and those investments often confer foreign citizenship. "My wife and kids are there now," he said. "I like it here, though, so I'm staying for now."



The Nation

Sign Here: Let's Pledge to Postpone the Apocalypse

By ADAM CLYMER

INSULTING to the dignity, injurious to the interests, dangerous to the security and repugnant to the Constitution of the United States" was how the treaty was described in Richmond. "A cage constructed to coop up the American eagle" was the denunciation in Boston, where burnings in effigy were common.

No, they weren't talking about the Chemical Weapons Convention, though the level of rhetorical overkill was similar to that of last week when the Senate debated and approved the pact to ban the production, storage and use of poison gas. It was the Jay Treaty of 1795 they were talking about, a treaty that made paranoid Jeffersonians think the Federalists were trying to establish an American monarchy.

Senator Jesse Helms and his Republican friends were following a hallowed American tradition in their apocalyptic warnings. The North Carolina isolationist said, "Instead of halting the spread of poison gas, this treaty will be aiding in its proliferation." Conrad Burns of Montana declared that "Iran will be permitted to have access to our chemical secrets." Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas called the pact "unilateral disarmament," although the United States already, during the administration of her constituent, George Bush, agreed to destroy all its stock of poison gas.

Better Wait Than Never

John Kyl of Arizona, whose opposition was at least as intense as Mr. Helms's, argued that if the treaty were ratified the United States, or other countries, would have to start helping bad countries acquire poison gas technology. Of course Mr. Kyl also offered this unusual historical view of the Senate's killing the League of Nations covenant in 1919: "I do not think there are very many people who believe this country made a mistake by waiting and creating instead the United Nations."

Treaties have always had an odd place in the American system (and indeed the American system for dealing with them often frustrates other nations, who first negotiate, cut deals and compromise with the executive branch, and then have to sit by and watch Congress decide whether to revoke the United States's word).

The extreme arguments, while they sound similar,

may have a different basis today than they did in the Republic's early years, said Joel Sibley, a Cornell historian. Then, foreign affairs, and the British threat, were deeply held concerns. These days, when even primitive isolationism is a lesser force, exaggeration may be needed just to get attention for foreign affairs.

The fury over the Jay Treaty, the nation's first, was not just over its provisions and how tough or weak it was toward Britain on issues ranging from free trade to delivery of the mail. It was also over the fact that the Administration and the Federalist Senate used the treaty power (as the Constitution provided) to make law that they could not have got the House, controlled by Jefferson's Republicans, to pass.

It was the nation's first experience with that less than democratic Constitutional approach, but the same concern about elite judgments has been behind many subsequent fights over treaties. After all, not only did Jefferson warn against "entangling alliances," but even

Senate debates over treaties produce dire predictions and frustrate other nations.

George Washington, who found the Jay Treaty embarrassing, warned in his Farewell Address to "steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world."

The Jay Treaty, like most embattled pacts, did not produce much in the way of hyperbole from its proponents. Neither did the Chemical Weapons Convention. Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts was most enthusiastic, saying "We can bestow a precious gift on generations to come by freeing the world of an entire class of weapons of mass destruction." Most advocates said it was no panacea, but would help in curbing and detecting the spread of these weapons.

Indeed exaggeration often comes from treaty proponents when they begin to detect a serious level of opposition. The typical argument is that not only will untold harm flow from rejection of the treaty itself, but by going back on the President's word, the Senate will



A Japanese reporter covering the Army's chemical weapons disposal plant in Tooele, Utah, last year.

make the nation unworthy of trust ever again. The 26 Republican votes against the poison gas pact were striking in this context, not only because Republicans have lately stressed the importance of following Presidents, but also because this treaty was negotiated by two of their own, Ronald Reagan and Mr. Bush.

A Rare Private Warning

But sometimes the direst warnings don't get offered publicly. Robert Pastor, an Emory University political scientist who worked in the Carter Administration, recalled last week being asked to prepare two statements

for the President to use, one if the Panama Canal treaties were approved in 1978, and one if they were rejected.

As he set to work on the rejection speech, he concluded that if the Senate spurned the treaties, Panama would blow up the canal. That argument, if offered publicly, would have seemed like cheap blackmail of the Senate and was never used publicly. Indeed, the treaties were approved, with one vote to spare, and the rejection speech was never needed.

But not long ago, memoirs from Panamanian leaders made it clear he was right in his suspicions; they planned to blow up the canal's locks. Sometimes treaty debates really do carry apocalyptic consequences.

The Parent Trap

Old Mother Hubbard Was Never a Sex Pot

By GINA KOLATA

ON April 11, at 12:05 a.m., Julia Randall was born in Manhattan's Beth Israel Hospital. The proud father, Tony Randall, age 77, announced, "I want to have another one right away."

The writer George Plimpton, at age 69, is the father of two-year-old twins. He said his babies and a tonic from the bark of pine trees that grow in the south of France are what invigorate him.

So, are these men sexy, or what? After all, they have young wives, presumably impregnated in the normal way, and what better proof is there of virility than the birth of a baby?

Compare those oew parents with the 63-year-old Los Angeles woman who gave birth to a baby of her own, hiding under a cloak of anonymity. Like Mr. Randall, she had never had a baby before. But few cooed over her accomplishment (her doctors say she's the oldest woman on record to give birth). No one said she was sexy.

Those who are offended by last week's news of an old woman giving birth tend to cite reasons other than sexiness. They argue that it is not fair to the child to have two elderly parents, adding that old men who are fathers are different because they often have young wives who, presumably, will be healthy and energetic enough to raise the child. But old mothers usually come with old fathers. The husband of the 63-year-old woman was 57 when he fathered the child.

Maybe It's an Esthetic Question

But is this really an ethical question or an esthetic one? Is the issue of old mothers really about parenthood or sexiness?

Dr. David M. Buss, a psychology professor at the University of Texas at Austin, said he detects a sexual undertone to the public's reaction to the 63-year-old



Tony Randall, age 77, with his newborn, Julia.

mother. There is no question, he said, that by giving birth this woman defied not only natural rules but sexual rules.

"It's absolutely right" that sex is part of the reaction, said Dr. Barbara Koenig, an anthropologist who is executive director of the Center for Biomedical Ethics at Stanford University. It is, she said, "a typical case of how technology is challenging some fundamental assumptions," in this case, about the sexuality of older women.

In the 37 cultures Dr. Buss has studied, he said, one truth prevails: Old men who are rich or powerful have erotic power as well. It can gain them a young wife and give them an air of sexuality even when their faces are wrinkled and their eyesight dimmed. Older women are in a different category. Men are not looking for a powerful woman. What they want is youth — "smooth skin, clear skin, full lips, and a waist-hip ratio of .70," Dr. Buss said.

Movies as a Gender Guide

If movies are any guide, women are portrayed as over the hill when men are just hitting their sexual stride. Why else would men and women who are roughly the same age be cast in roles a generation apart? When Dustin Hoffman played a young college graduate in the 1967 movie "The Graduate" he was 31. The older woman, the friend of the young man's parents, was played by Anne Bancroft when she was 36. In the 1959 Alfred Hitchcock film "North by Northwest," the Cary Grant character's mother was played by Jessie Royce Landis, when she was several months younger than Mr. Grant.

But it's not just a Hollywood fiction that young women often find old men — particularly rich and powerful men — sexy. Justice William O. Douglas of the Supreme Court was 76 when he married a 23-year-old woman. Senator Strom Thurmond was 66 when he took his second wife, a 22-year-old woman who was a former Miss South Carolina, Nancy Moore. Mr. Thurmond was older than his young wife's mother. They had four children. "No one accused him of being a pervert," said Dr.

There's little question that the 63-year-old woman from Los Angeles who gave birth defied not only natural rules but sexual rules too.

John Gagnon, a sociologist at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

But power does not usually confer the glitter of sex appeal to older women. "No one is turned on by Madeleine Albright or Elizabeth Dole," Dr. Gagnon said.

"Women are primarily valued for sex and reproductive purposes," said Dr. Susan Sherwin, a professor of philosophy and women's studies at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. So, when they no longer are young andubile, when they no longer carry the outward signs of fertility, they are cast aside. That may explain, Dr. Sherwin said, why there is "something approaching cultural horror" when a woman past menopause moves herself back into the role of the fertile woman.

Dr. Buss said he had noticed, among his own friends and colleagues, that men react differently than women to news of the 63-year-old mother. "The women I spoke to said, 'Go for it.' The men furrowed their brows and said it was repugnant," Dr. Buss said.

His own reaction? He said, "I believe people should live their lives whatever way they want to." That, he said, is his response "on a meta-cognitive level." And on an emotional level? "I don't want to say," Dr. Buss said.

Puffed Up by Prosperity, America Struts Its Stuff

Continued From Page 1

markets. These are necessary steps, they say, en route to a richer economy that will eventually help everyone.

Others, including the Clinton Administration, would not tamper with the formula, but would repair the damage after the fact, through tax policies that redistribute income to the working poor. The earned income tax credit is an example of this approach. So is the cry for more training, so the unskilled can move to the higher end of the unequal pay system.

But is the American formula really the best model? The most comprehensive measure of success is national income per capita; that is, gross domestic product — the value of all the goods and services produced in a country in a given year — divided by the population. By that standard, according to the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation, the United States has been the world's wealthiest country ever since World War II. No question on that score.

But from 1960 until the early 1980's, Japan

and Western Europe closed the gap. Their per capita national incomes grew faster than that of the United States. Since then, no country has gained on another, or lost ground. And in this standoff, each side in this debate sees victory.

Listen to William Lewis, director of the Global Institute at McKinsey & Company, a consulting firm. Mr. Lewis, a former Carter Administration official, has published more than one long study critical of what he describes as market obstacles in Japan, Germany and France — studies that Robert M. Solow, a Nobel laureate in economics, and other prominent economists have publicly endorsed. In the most recent, issued last month, Mr. Lewis urged, among other things, that France and Germany move toward greater deregulation and a lowering of their "comparatively high minimum wages." Income distribution, he said, should be banded through tax policies, not mandated pay scales.

The Path of Deregulation

Western Europe and Japan, Mr. Lewis said in an interview, stopped gaining ground on the

Japan and Western Europe now tinker with their formulas.

United States in per capita national income because America has moved steadily since the Carter Administration toward deregulation and unrestricted business practices, which "weed out firms that are unable to get better." He added: "The reason there is higher competitive intensity in the United States is that there are fewer restrictions on the ways businesses can organize and compete."

Such reasoning incenses Richard Freeman, a Harvard labor economist. The Japanese and Western Europeans may no longer be closing the income-per-capita gap with the United States, he says, but Americans are working longer hours to keep their lead, while the others, being more productive, are working fewer hours without losing ground. "What you don't see in national income per capita is

leisure time," Mr. Freeman said. "That gap is closing. You don't even hear anymore that the Japanese are overworked."

There are in fact flaws in all the models. The United States creates millions of new jobs, and unemployment is very low. But the highest-paid people take home growing chunks of the national income while wages at the lower end have fallen in recent years, when adjusted for inflation. No other industrial nation has had that experience.

Out of Work

The income spread is far smaller in Western Europe, but unemployment in most countries there has grown from low levels 15 years ago to double the American rate, or more. Various subsidies keep the unemployed afloat, but the young are particularly hard-hit, stunting their skills, and even in Western Europe, benefits eventually run out for those without work long enough.

The Japanese, like the Western Europeans, manage to keep wages rising across the board and more evenly distributed than the United States does. Unlike Western Europe, Japan has a low unemployment rate. That is partly

because of the Japanese resistance to layoffs and partly because most women stay out of the labor force, or drop out in hard times, while men in their 50's are often forced into retirement in greater numbers than in the West.

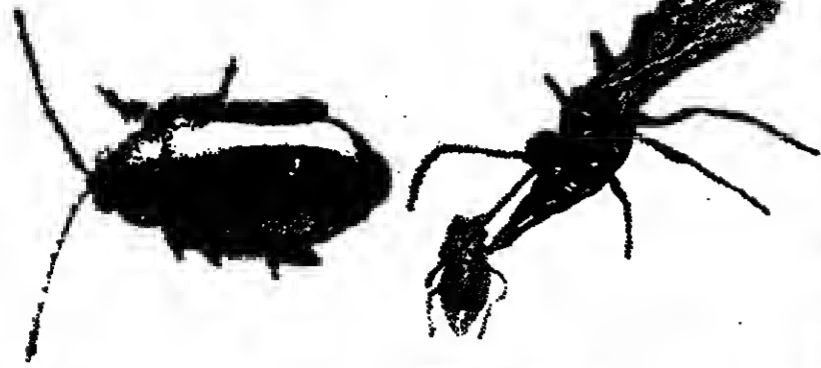
Given cultural and political differences, none of these labor models seem likely to change much in the foreseeable future. Protests in France, for example, stopped the Government in 1994 from lowering the minimum wage for people under 25. And in the United States, the practice of tying pay to profits or to what an employer decides a worker's performance is worth is a spreading, not a shrinking, phenomenon.

Still, deregulation is gaining ground in Japan and Western Europe — not to mimic the United States, but to move toward some middle ground. "There is a very strong feeling that something is wrong, that the cost structure is too high," said Shuzo Nakamura, chief representative in New York of the Japanese Finance Ministry. "Some people believe we have to emulate the United States but most feel we have to find our own way."

Ideas & Trends

In Nature vs. Nature, Nature May Not Win

Good Ideas



Flea Beetle

A boon against alligator weed, this insect may soon fight the spiny musk thistle.

Parasitic Wasp

This variety protects plants against aphids. Other wasps attack moths and beetles.

Bad Ideas



Cane Toad

A hopping toxic waste dump, this poisonous toad has no natural enemies.

Indian Mongoose

Imported to eat rats, this small carnivore has wiped out birds in Hawaii and the West Indies.

Tilapia

A popular weed-eating fish, this import has driven out many types of native fish.

Phorid Fly

Well tested and feeding only on fire ants, this bug may succeed where pesticides fail.

Photographs by Photo Researchers Inc., except mongoose (Animals Animals) and phorid fly (Stanford O. Porter)



By GINA MARANTO

SEVERAL weeks ago, when 170 Michigan schoolchildren were infected with hepatitis A after eating tainted strawberries imported from Mexico, the nation wondered what other viruses and bacteria might be hitching a ride across the border on foodstuffs. Microorganisms, it turns out, are but a tiny part of a growing problem. Every day hordes of foreign insects, plants, and animals infiltrate the United States.

There are 500 million plants flowing into the United States each year — about 80 percent through the Port of Miami — and tons of fresh fruit, vegetables and grains where alien insects can hide out. In Florida alone, state biologists have tallied some 1,300 established alien plant species, some of which have despoiled uncounted acres.

Today the scale of the international traffic in flora and fauna is so vast — and the resulting hazards to agriculture and ecosystems potentially so great — that there is a whole branch of science devoted to the militaristic sounding study of "invasion biology."

How, then, should one react to the news that scientists, in an attempt to deal with what are variously called aliens, immigrants, xenophytes or, simply, introduced species, are opting to bring in still more exotic species? Isn't this foolhardy?

For example, the United States Department of Agriculture is about to do a controlled release of the snout beetle near Loxahatchie to try to get rid of the

Gina Maranto is the author of "Quest for Perfection" and writes often on ecological topics.

Australian melaleuca, a tree which is spreading across the Everglades at a rate of about 35 acres a day, forming dense thickets that crowd out native plants. The snout beetle, also known as the melaleuca weevil, is one of the most tested bugs in history, so it probably won't wind up eating mahogany or palms instead of melaleuca.

But the snout beetle isn't the only foreign bug that is being drafted to gobble up a pest. Researchers in Gainesville, Florida have finished up Brazilian field tests of a parasitic fly, the phorid fly, that can kill non-native fire ants, which have decamped in 11 southern states, by laying eggs upon the ants' bodies. The researchers hope to do outdoor tests in Gainesville this summer and then to turn the flies loose in nature.

Spectacular Goofs

This strategy, known as biological control — fighting nature with nature — has had some spectacular failures. Take the cane toad. Imported by Australia in the 1930's to oblige sugar cane growers — against the dire advice of a naturalist named Walter W. Froggatt — the poisonous cane toad was meant to get rid of a beetle that was devastating the sugar cane crops. However, explains herpetologist Walter Meshaka, Jr., supervisory curator at the Everglades Museum, "Beetles fly at night and were inaccessible to the toads." So the voracious toads ate everything else, having a field day in an under-exploited niche. Soon 182 toads turned into a trillion.

Or think of that staple of ecology textbooks, the Indian mongoose, which Hawaii imported to eat rats that were overrunning cane fields. Between 1883 and 1885, the mammals were brought in, leading not only to a

small drop in the rat population but to the destruction of ground-nesting native birds throughout the islands.

Then there was Kudzu. Although not technically a biocontrol agent, this Japanese plant was planted across the American South during the 1930's as an erosion buster; it now blankets whole landscapes, ruining native habitats. Or recall the arrival of tilapia, a fish meant to take care of hydrilla, a runaway exotic aquatic plant that clogs Florida waterways: The tilapia didn't make a major dent in the problem they were supposed to solve but they did manage to drive out native fish, especially large-mouth bass, the prime freshwater sport fish.

It is cases like these that make ecologists frown on using vertebrates and amphibians as controls.

Yet there have been successes, cases where insects imported to take care of a runaway colleague or an invasive plant have done their work, with limited impact on other species. Parasitic wasps have proved helpful in California's orchards. Beetles from Europe and northern Africa have pushed Klamath weed out of some five million acres of rangeland in the West. In the South, flea beetles have thwarted alien alligator weed.

Peter Room, an entomologist at the Center for Tropical Pest Management in Brisbane, Australia, has had successes all over the world with a Brazilian beetle. First he cleared 500 acres in Lake Moondarra of a free-

floating aquatic species called *Salvinia modesta*. Then he introduced the beetle to Sri Lanka, India, Zambia, Kenya, Fiji and Malaysia. When the costs and benefits of the Sri Lanka project were tallied, the return for every \$1 spent was \$33, and farmers were saved 1,673 hours of clearing *salvinia* for every hour of work by scientists.

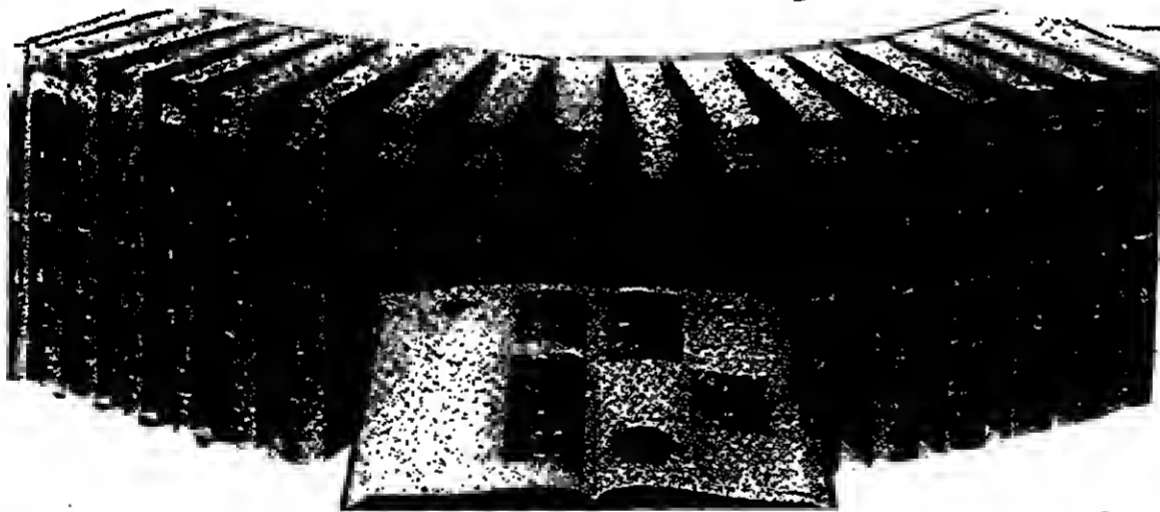
It's no wonder that in the 1960's, biological controls were touted as the "green" alternative to pesticides and herbicides. But now the supporters of biocontrols are duking it out with skeptical ecologists over what "success" and "safety" really mean. And some former supporters of biological controls, notably Daniel Simberloff, a biologist at Florida State University, have changed their minds. Mr. Simberloff suggests that the impact of biocontrols on natural systems has not been adequately assessed and they should be a last resort.

Of course, as the ecologists are battling it out, exotic species that are not part of any controlled program are coming to our shores every day, with the possibility of wreaking havoc. In its 1993 report the Office of Technology Assessment said the nation spends at least hundreds of millions of dollars each year to extirpate, exotic species that endanger native species or threaten agriculture.

Unintended Consequences

Biocontrols are, naturally, also subject to the law of unintended consequences. Even though scientists may know a fair amount about an ecosystem, they can never predict with complete accuracy what will happen when they release a new exotic species. But after all is said and done, taking a considered risk may be better than sitting around while the invading hordes run riot.

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The Politics Of Another Political Trial

Continued From Page 1

ploring the motivations of Mr. McVeigh and his alleged connections to far-right groups, there are predictions that the conservative movement may once again be subject to what Robert Holsworth, director of the Center for Public Policy at Virginia Commonwealth University, calls "guilt by rhetorical association."

Stuart Rothenberg, editor of the Washington-based Rothenberg Political Report, said the question of whether a would-be terrorist could possibly be inflamed by strident anti-government oratory was likely to be asked once again, perhaps subtly and perhaps not. "I certainly expect to see some Democrats and liberals, individuals or groups, once again raising these issues, at least to see what kind of reaction they get," he said.

But, said Mr. Holsworth, "my sense is that all this is very unlikely to come up in quite the same way it did in 1995, because the mood has changed so drastically in this country."

"The Republicans aren't preaching revolution anymore," he added. "In a way, the debate over what ought to be the dominant political mode in American politics is over. Those who had this strident, revolutionary, anti-government line have lost that debate, even though they might have won on a lot of the policy issues." Mr. Clinton and many Democrats may have taken up many signature conservative issues, said Mr. Holsworth, but "almost everything that's done now is under the rhetorical dress of bringing Americans together."

Out of Sight

Of course, it's possible that not that many Americans will be paying attention. Stephen Hess, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, said: "This trial hasn't yet become an issue that has truly engaged the public. We are always looking for the next big trial. It's like the next big wave if you're a surfer. This could be it, this should be it, but it isn't yet."

Mark Mellman, a political consultant in Washington, said public interest was likely to be limited because the trial is not being televised. "It's one thing to be glued to the Watergate hearings live, or to O. J. Simpson live," he said. "It's another thing to be glued to artist's sketches of the trial or reports in a newspaper. It's harder to engage people's attention day after day, week after week, when there aren't cameras in the courtroom."

Even if the trial does captivate the public, perhaps with revelations that the Government bungled the evidence, many experts doubt that its conduct will become a rallying cry, as it was, for instance, in the siege of the Branch Davidians near Waco — the very incident that the prosecutors say spurred Mr. McVeigh to terrorism.

"I can't believe that any mainstream conservatives would let themselves get into a position where they seem in any conceivable way to be apologizing for or extenuating the deeds of McVeigh," said Mr. Kristol.

Journal
FRANK RICH

The New World Order

If by any miracle you still remember the campaign of '96, you may recall the poignant soap opera of Bob Dole trying to escape from the Christian Coalition. Every time Mr. Dole stepped toward the center where he might win the election — accepting a contribution from gay Republicans, inserting the word "tolerance" in the platform's abortion plank — Pat Robertson and Ralph Reed yanked him violently to the right again as surely as Al Pacino got sucked back into the Mafia in "Godfather III."

Now we have the final evidence that Mr. Dole was no fool to view the religious right as an albatross likely to drive away the centrist voters who elect Presidents: Mr. Reed, as shrewd and ambitious a politician as his generation can boast, has himself started to separate from the religious right by announcing his resignation as the Christian Coalition's executive director. Mr. Reed seems to know that if he wants national office someday, it will do him no more good than it did Mr. Dole to stay under Mr. Robertson's thumb.

In speaking to Republican politicians both conservative and moderate on a not-for-attribution basis after Mr. Reed's announcement, I found near unanimity of opinion. Few believe that the Christian Coalition will find a new front man with the same extraordinary talent for putting a happy, unthreatening face on a religious-right constituency that embraces a constitutional amendment outlawing abortion, Pat Buchanan's anti-immigrant nativism and fierce opposition to gay civil rights.

Mr. Reed was even reasonably successful in deflecting attention from a Robertson best seller, "The New World Order," in which Farrakhan-esque conspiracy theories about Jewish bankers intermingled with paranoid ramblings about the Council on Foreign Relations of the sort beloved by our better-armed militias. The most successful Reed technique for intimidating the secular mainstream press was to play the victimization card and accuse any critics of Christian-bashing. As proof, he repeatedly cited a "single underhanded 1998 Washington Post article (which the Post had immediately corrected) labeling evangelicals "poor, uneducated and easy to command."

With Mr. Reed no longer spinning, a more naked religious right may now scare still more voters away from the G.O.P., especially if Mr. Robertson, who is even capable of injecting apocalyptic musings into discussions of entitlement reform, is more visible. "The religious right could become a loose cannon once again," said one economic conservative. "Robertson is a millennialist and I expect the Christian Coalition to get looper as we approach the end of the millennium."

George Stephanopoulos echoed



Two Cheers For Charity

By Mario M. Cuomo

What a dazzling array of ideas and proposals make up today's extravaganza in Philadelphia called the Presidents' Summit for America's Future!

Americans helping Americans out of a deep compassion for the disadvantaged, especially the 15 million children at risk. "A new way of doing business" (in the words of the summit meeting's organizers) that will, by the year 2000, give at least two million of these children better health, better education, a better chance at a good job, safer places to live and work and even better relationships with their parents or mentors.

No one will be taxed to pay for any part of it, nor will there be any grubby partisan politics. Whatever political benefits may develop will redound to both major parties because they are both well-represented among the leading organizers. Together, the latest in ultimate volunteerism. And maybe most appealing of all, on the outside of the brightly wrapped package for all to see, these words are emblazoned: "The Era of Big Government Is Over."

There is no doubt that the Philadelphia gathering will be well-received by the American people and that it will do some good. The idea of volunteerism is an irradicably American tradition.

Americans have been marvelously generous with their own time, ideas and resources for more than 200 years. Think of the countless groups already at work: religious organizations, foundations, corporations, not-for-profits like the American Red Cross, Volunteers of America and Mentoring USA — not to mention volunteer firemen who risk their lives for their neighbors simply because it's a good thing to do.

Indeed, for more than most of our history, much of what we now call social services were provided by private charities. Long before welfare, unemployment insurance, Medicaid, Medicare or even a public school system, people in need were helped

by charities or not at all.

So a well-organized, highly motivated bipartisan effort to stimulate further nur interest for mutual aid and community activity is an intelligent and useful appeal to the better angels of our nature. It will brighten the soul of the nation and provide a welcome respite from the less inspiring political skirmishing to which we've become so accustomed. Sounds almost perfect.

Almost.

But there is the danger we will feel so good about being good to one another privately that we will be tempted to believe government does not need to do anything more. The summitters' own statements make appallingly clear how great the need for assistance is. They mention mil-

No amount of volunteerism can let government off the hook.

lions of children at risk and 40 million poor people in America. They mention the need for better education and skills training. There are estimates that just to repair public school buildings around the nation we will need nearly \$100 billion. This does not even consider the shortages of books, transportation and modern technology, nor the inappropriate shortness of the school year.

The summitters mention better health: More than 40 million Americans are without health-care insurance. Both Democrats and Republicans in Congress admit that the life of many children will be ruined unless they are provided with access to early and regular health care.

The summit meeting is a good thing, if we regard it as helpful to

Essay
WILLIAM SAFIRE

The Other Boris

WASHINGTON

He speaks English well, in a quiet, deferential tone. His age is 37. He is slim, dark-eyed and telegenic.

He is a trained physicist drawn into politics by his opposition to a nuclear power station, who won a seat in the last Soviet parliament as an anti-Communist dissident. After standing with Boris Yeltsin against coup plotters in 1991, he was rewarded with appointment as Governor of the Nizhny Novgorod region — including the notorious closed city of Gorky, where the troublesome were sent into internal exile.

He wore sweaters and jeans to the office and was early in denouncing the war in Chechnya. In privatizing state-owned businesses, he followed the economic policies of the reformist Grigory Yavlinsky rather than the apparat-pleasing methods of Anatoly Chubais; in so doing, he gained the confidence of the World Bank and turned his region into the reform center of Russia. In 1995, he was elected easily.

Meteoric rise of Nemtsov.

Boris Nemtsov was plucked out of the blue two months ago by the resuscitated President Yeltsin to serve, along with Chubais, as First Deputy Prime Minister.

That thrust Nemtsov into a snake-pit of intrigue. Chubais is seeking to oust the wealthy Viktor Chernomyrdin, who was named Prime Minister when Yeltsin ousted the financial support of the ex-Communist bankers and industrialists who have been stealing Russia blind. Chubais, a renegade reformer despised for his insider compromises by purer democrats, is blamed by most Russians for privatization giveaways and could not be elected wolfcatcher.

But neither could the stolid Chernomyrdin, whose only loyal constituent is Al Gore. Both unpopular Yeltsin appointees had reached a standoff last week, as red ink overflowed, about control of the richest jewel in the Kremlin crown: the oil-gas-power monopolies, the oligopoly that is the source of Chernomyrdin's strength.

Then Yeltsin pulled one of his famous fast ones. Instead of letting either of the two control the resources, he crossed up both by appointing Nemtsov, still wet behind his Kremlin ears, to run the crucial "natural" monopolies.

It was pleasing to the people, who have vaulted Nemtsov to the top of the personal popularity polls, largely because of his opening stunt in stripping bureaucrats of perks and demanding all government limos be Russian-made.

It also pleased Yavlinsky, the only reformer building a grass-roots political party for the long haul, who hailed his protégé as "Deputy Czar for Revenutions," a mock-title formerly applied to himself. Yavlinsky, with his Yabloko Party supportive of today's policy but still independent of the regime, pledged to supply Nemtsov with expert staff and recommendations to decentralize economic power and bust up the stagnating monopolies.

How long does the new man's writ run? Yeltsin is a past master at dividing opponents and riding others' popularity. His last horse was Gen. Aleksandr Lebed, whom he pushed forward with TV exposure at election time to split the nationalist vote, appointed to a high post with much fanfare, then jettisoned when he acted uppity. Lebed suddenly finds himself tied for "most trusted" in polls with Yeltsin's new favorite, the other Boris.

Curiously, in a country where Jews are a tiny minority and anti-Semitism is widespread, Nemtsov's Jewish roots have not hurt him politically. Perhaps that's because he has plenty of company in government: the loony Vladimir Zhirinovskiy tries to hide his Jewish ancestry, while Yavlinsky does not. Chubais is rumored to have a Jewish parent, but says nothing, and the spymaster now Foreign Minister changed his name from Finkelstein to Primakov (Ukrainian for "stepson") to conceal his background.

Could the Pushkinsque Nemtsov make it all the way? Western pundits interviewing him during his yearly visits to the World Economic Forum can attest he has a real talent for shyly working a room. But he has been gutsy in his opinions, and will surely knock the socks off American television viewers.

Maybe he is being set up by Yeltsin and Chubais for a wild ride and a sharp fall. The job could be too big for any one man with derivative power. At the same time, when his friend Yavlinsky warned him against joining "a whole detachment of well-fixed kamikazes," Nemtsov smiled and replied, "A kamikaze can live for a very long time." □

Reed dumps Robertson.

some Republicans when he argued that Mr. Reed's resignation could hasten the G.O.P.'s inevitable civil war: "Ralph was one of the few who could bridge the divide between the social conservatives and the party's establishment."

In his new role as paid consultant and someday candidate himself, Mr. Reed seems poised to join that establishment and soft-pedal the religious right's most extremist views. He's more likely to be in George W. Bush's camp in 2000 than Pat Buchanan's. Even last year, Mr. Reed pragmatically edged away from his organization's rank and file; he not only covertly favored Mr. Dole over Pitchfork Pat at the pivotal primary moment (South Carolina) but also gingerly tried, until Phyllis Schlafly and company laid down the law, to secure a slightly less Draconian abortion plank. Mr. Reed avoids homophobic rhetoric; his fledgling efforts to reach out to poor black Americans, however politically opportune, seem motivated by a sincere desire to atone for conservative hostility to the 60's civil-rights movement.

Depending on how high he's aiming, Mr. Reed could yet move more toward the center. ("Join the rest of America! Come on in! The water's fine!," says Mr. Stephanopoulos, who understands "totally" why a 35-year-old might leave a job as acolyte to a political titan.) One moderate G.O.P. operative, awed by Mr. Reed's "Machiavellian" ability to reinvent himself in pursuit of power, goes so far as to predict that "in three years, people won't remember he was part of the Christian Coalition." The polarized Republican Party Mr. Reed has left in his wake should only have it so good. □

The Law Is at Risk in Tobacco Suits

By Bill Pryor

MONTGOMERY, Ala.

For the two dozen state attorneys general who are suing the tobacco industry, Friday's ruling by a Federal judge that the Food and Drug Administration can regulate cigarettes was good news. It may strengthen their hand in the current settlement talks with the big tobacco companies.

I have no quarrel with having the F.D.A. regulate cigarettes. But I and several other attorneys general have made it clear that our states will not join the suits against the tobacco industry. The actions against these companies are being pursued mostly by liberal attorneys general, some of whom have retained prominent trial lawyers to advance their cause. This litigation reflects not only bad public policy, but bad law.

I am not an ally of Big Tobacco. Alabama does not have a significant amount of tobacco farming. Cigarette smoking is a serious public health problem, and I have been working closely with other state officials and business leaders on ways to keep cigarettes away from young people.

As a conservative, however, I believe in the strict separation of governmental powers. Courts should not resolve political problems. The states that have sued the tobacco

industry are using the courts in an effort to circumvent their legislatures and Congress.

Following the lead of the Clinton Administration, the attorneys general who are suing say that states should not have to pay the Medicaid costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses. But if these costs are indeed a burden, then Congress or state

It's a mistake to bypass legislatures — and to cut deals with companies.

legislatures should defray them by raising taxes on cigarettes.

Liberals do not believe that legislatures will raise cigarette taxes. So they want the courts to solve this political problem for them, thus enriching their trial lawyer allies.

Though the harmful effects of tobacco have been known for a long time, millions of Americans smoke anyway. Cigarettes are already heavily taxed by state and Federal governments. In fact, governments collect more in cigarette taxes than they pay out for the costs of tobacco-related illnesses, according to studies by leading economic analysts.

The state attorneys general who are suing the tobacco industry are

also trying to get around accepted legal principles. In Alabama, a panel of experts from my office, the state Medicaid Agency, the Department of Public Health, the Governor's office and the Cumberland School of Law unanimously concluded that these suits are based on unsound legal theories.

The dirty little secret of the state lawsuits is that many of them are intended to be heard by judges, not by juries, which have often agreed with the tobacco industry that smokers assume the risks of their behavior. (These suits have been filed as "equity" cases, which seek redress but not compensatory damages and are only heard by judges.) But this approach plays fast and loose with a fundamental civil right. Jury trials solve controversial cases in a more democratic way.

Because states pay benefits to Medicaid recipients, they have the right to sue tobacco companies on behalf of those beneficiaries. But to pursue their cases in the standard way, the states would face a number of obstacles: A state would have to bring a separate case for each individual. Every case would pose a different problem concerning the statute of limitations and the individual's knowledge of the dangers of smoking.

To get around that, the states are using the dubious argument of "unjust enrichment" on the part of the tobacco companies. The states argue that the companies unfairly benefit because the states pay to treat tobacco-related illnesses that the cigarette companies have in effect caused.

If this new legal theory becomes widespread, who will the states sue next — the producers of well-married beef? Do we really want the courts to be in the business of protecting us from ourselves?

In March, the Liggett Group agreed to pay a percentage of its profits to the states that sued the company, in exchange for immunity for any past wrongful conduct. Talks to settle pending lawsuits against R. J. Reynolds and Philip Morris are expected to resume this week. If the Liggett settlement is a sign of things to come, the winners will be the lawyers, who will reap big fees, and the tobacco companies, if they receive protection from future suits.

The attorneys general who are suing now say they won't accept a deal that gives the tobacco companies "blanket immunity" from future suits. But the devil is in the details. And the tobacco companies have always managed to get a good deal for themselves. □

Note to Readers

The Op-Ed page welcomes unsolicited manuscripts. Because of the volume of submissions, however, we regret that we cannot acknowledge an article or return it. If manuscripts are accepted for publication, authors will be notified within two weeks. For further information, call (212) 556-1831.

THE ARTS

P.T. Barnum's Influence Is Still Felt in Classical Music World

By JAMES R. OESTREICH

AN IDEAL HOLLYWOOD ENDING IT WAS NOT. How gratifying it might have been if David Helfgott had proved the resurrected pianistic genius, however eccentric, portrayed in the movie "Shine" and in the surrounding promotional apparatus. Then again, "Shine," produced in Australia, was not, strictly speaking, a Hollywood movie.

So what exactly happened? Is it possible at last, with Mr. Helfgott headed for Europe after two recitals this week in Pasadena, Calif., to cast a dispassionate eye on the affair of the last few months for what it may



David Helfgott in a recent concert.

have to say about the worrisome state of classical music in the United States?

What became obvious on the pianist's arrival in America last month was that the Helfgott phenomenon had little to do with music. Suspicions raised in advance by the waywardness of his performances on the film soundtrack and in an RCA recording of Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto (known to musicians, and now to moviegoers, as the Rach 3), were amply confirmed by two recitals in Avery Fisher Hall and another in the Academy of Music in Philadelphia: whatever level Mr. Helfgott had achieved before his mental breakdown, this was not now a great, or even a particularly good, pianist. If the medium for his "genius" had been chess or mathematics, his shortcomings would probably have become more quickly and indisputably apparent to more people.

Nor, despite the heated terms in which it was argued, did the phenomenon have much to do with morality. There was, to be sure, a voyeuristic aspect to the intense curiosity surrounding the concerts as well as the movie; Mr. Helfgott's mental illness, especially as portrayed by Geoffrey Rush in the film, manifests itself in undeniably entertaining ways. But far more, there was a genuine desire to see an underdog triumph, Rocky-like, and to find once again, in the best Hollywood tradition, that love conquers all. Mr. Helfgott seemed to be enjoying his own-found fame and commercial success. If he was a victim of exploitation, then what is to be said of the preteen and teen-age prodigies who are trotted onto the concert stage with such regularity?

No, the Helfgott phenomenon had mostly to do with show business. That Jenny Lind, the "Swedish Nightingale," was actually a great singer probably mattered little to P. T. Barnum, who sold her to a ravenous American public a century ago; what mattered was that she was marketable. Barnum would have been the first to recognize the opportunity afforded by the success of "Shine," but he could hardly have done a better job of capitalizing on it than that done by his Australian counterparts.

And this, alas, is what the classical-music business has come to in America and elsewhere: chasing sensations, whether David Helfgott,

Gregorian chant or aging tenors. Although the rumors of its demise have been greatly exaggerated, the classical world persists in taking suicidal risks in search of the quick fix, the ultimate high.

The big bucks, one might add, in the cases of companies and individuals trying to make a hefty profit from a business in which prestige was once as good as gold: radio stations, record companies and artist managements, not to mention the big-name artists themselves.

Now many of the big classical record labels, having belatedly awakened to the existence of a reissue glut of their own making, have jettisoned loyal artists and substantial repertory and turned to more profitable "thematic" compilations, movie soundtracks and dubious crossover efforts. But while they may have abandoned their ideals, they have not stopped dreaming: they dream of the next ready-made celebrity, like Mr. Helfgott, or the next fluky hit, like Henryk Gorecki's mystical Third Symphony.

Perhaps the biggest problem of all, however, if one is to believe the English critic Norman Leitch, is simple greed. Mr. Leitch's latest book, "When the Music Stops: Managers, Maestros and the Corporate Murder of Classical Music," available in Britain and soon to appear in America, offers a scathing indictment of celebrity artists and their managers, although his good points tend to be undercut by a casual attitude toward factual detail.

AND HERE, INTO THIS TROU-ahled midst, strode — nay, sprinted — David Helfgott. He provided, if little else, the catharsis and diversion of righteous indignation. Everyone in the business, it seemed, was preoccupied, wanting to know where everyone else stood, feeling superior to most.

"What should I say to my students, who have been told that the way to get ahead in this field is through diligence, hard work and patience?" a conservatory professor asked. Tell them that life is unfair, perhaps. (Although Mr. Helfgott has some tales to tell along those lines, too.)

Critics could decry the exploitation of this disturbed individual and the lack of sophistication of audiences of which they were ashamed to be a part. Helfgott spokespeople and

The Helfgott hype included facile and absurd comparisons. Vladimir Horowitz, it was noted, retired from the stage from 1953 to 1965 because of nervous strain; and in fact, Horowitz played wretchedly at times in the 1960's while under heavy medication. Glenn Gould, it was noted, was also eccentric, and he groaned along with his performances more or less the way Mr. Helfgott did; and in fact, Gould was more seriously disturbed than has widely been thought, to judge from a book due next month, "Glenn Gould: The Ecstasy and Tragedy of Genius," by Peter F. Oswald, who was a psychiatrist and a friend of Gould's.

But such comparisons overlook an obvious difference: both Horowitz and Gould established themselves as brilliant performers in maturity. For all the loose talk of "prodigy" and "genius," Mr. Helfgott was nothing more than a promising student at the Royal College of Music in London before his first breakdown. Afterward, there was little reason to expect greatness of him.

A more accurate analogy might be to Erwin Nyiregyhazi, a pianist born in Budapest in 1903. Nyiregyhazi failed to realize his prodigious youthful potential and fell into poverty in Los Angeles, where he died in 1987. Some "comeback" recordings he made in the '70's, however, reveal a genuinely developed and reasonably coherent artistic temperament, something the 49-year-old Mr. Helfgott has yet to show.

Still, more than any of these, the pianist who kept coming to mind in the way Mr. Helfgott skated over musical surfaces, and especially in the kind of breathless adulation he drew from uncritical listeners, was, of all people, Liberace. Mr. Helfgott may have found his proper level on the Academy Awards telecast. Even though he got lost in his signature piece, "The Flight of the Bumblebee," he came off sounding better than Madonna.

Rejoice, the music world is told. Think of all the potential new listeners who are being reached by the film, the concerts, the recordings. ("Brilliantissimo," a disk of solo performances by Mr. Helfgott, is due next month from RCA.) It is indeed possible that a Helfgott experience will provide a first, intriguing exposure to classical music for some listeners. But it would be hopelessly unrealistic to expect great throngs of new listeners to arise from any these sensations.

Serious art or show business? Consider the David Helfgott sensation.

audience members could heap scorn on the critics, who were, after all, always intent on spoiling a good thing. ("Mean-spirited" was the term heard most often in the aisles of Avery Fisher Hall.) Helfgott "publicists" went a step farther, doing their best, after the discouraging early returns, to see that the concerts were not written about in certain quarters.

Even The Times of London got into the act. "The critics' attacks probably reflected an irritation that the musical agenda has been set by a non-American film," wrote Quentin Letts, a New York correspondent. (That's it, of course: American critics would have preferred a musical agenda set by "Mr. Holland's Opus," with its soupy popification of classical music.)

"Given some of the discordant drivel their fraternity has endorsed," Mr. Letts went on, "it is hard to resist a frisson of satisfaction at seeing their game spoilt."

ISN'T IT TIME THAT CLASSICAL music stops looking for great throngs in any case? Its problems did not arise overnight, and they will not be solved overnight. In fact, much of what is happening among musical institutions, self-destructive urges aside, may be part of a long-term evolution: a normalization of sorts after the booming growth of recent decades.

For the attempt to make classical music a mass medium has essentially failed. The turnout for the likes of David Helfgott and the Three Tenors has little effect on the day-to-day operations of musical institutions beyond encouraging them to chase chimeras. Making classical music available to everyone is one thing; trying to create an endlessly expanding market for it is another.

True, the attempt at popularization was made largely out of noble motives. Four decades ago, most U.S. musicians genuinely had it bad. Orchestral players were browbeaten by conductors, grossly underpaid in relation to other highly skilled professions and rarely employed year-round. Spurred by toughening unions, the orchestras set out to change all that, extending seasons and instituting summer festivals, chamber programs and other events to provide fuller and more lucrative employment. Old institutions were



Liberace in 1954: He skated over musical surfaces the way David Helfgott did in his recitals.



Auspicious beginning: P.T. Barnum, center, introduces Jenny Lind to Ossian E. Dodge, a Boston singer and the purchaser of the first ticket for her concert.

puffed up and new ones created.

Orchestral players were given big wage increases and other benefits, to bring them into line with comparable professions. But human nature being what it is, this catch-up mode soon came to be seen by its beneficiaries as the norm. Although most U.S. orchestral players now have it good in relation to the general population, they have been slow to acknowledge that such increases cannot go on forever — indeed, for very long at all. Their continuing demands, along with the high fees of music directors, put tremendous strain on the finances of even the largest orchestras.

Thus the pressure to fill every seat, and the ascendance of marketing. To most marketers, maximizing audiences means performing familiar, well-loved repertory and hiring glitzy soloists and guest conductors. It might be easy to dismiss the Helfgott tour as an aberration that had

little to do with hard-core musical activity were Mr. Helfgott not returning in August to play the Rach 3 with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, an adjunct of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. The wonder in the current, panicked climate is that other orchestras have not (yet) leapt at him and his box-office power.

Glitzy soloists are hugely expensive, some able to draw more than \$50,000 for a single performance. A few may be worth it, in terms of artistry as well as drawing power. Still, the returns are seldom more than marginal, and costs and ticket prices keep spiraling upward.

So the mandate to reach the masses with great music, which arose partly for good reasons, is kept in place chiefly for a bad one: to sustain an unstable economy. Classical music is saddled with oversize, overpriced institutions, and the only way it can keep them going, seemingly, is to feed the celebrity culture

that has done it so much harm in the first place.

It is a perilous time. Some institutions, wisely, have begun to re-examine their missions and to take creative approaches to maintaining a solid audience base. Others may perish. Yet even there, some good is possible. If, for example, a regional orchestra were to die here and there, there might be a heightened demand for the great American orchestras to tour the United States rather than running off to play Beethoven in Japan year after year. There might — wonder of wonders — be a heightened demand for the great orchestras on radio and even on records.

It may be that we have seen the future, and it is the leaner and meaner past. Classical music thrived for centuries as a minority interest, loved passionately by a relative few. Unless the radio stations and record companies leave only scorched earth behind, it is likely to do so again. □

OFF THE RACK

By MATT GAFFNEY / Edited by WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

- Campus cafeteria arrangement
- Soft drink brand
- Spots, biblically
- "The Witching Hour" author
- Dorsal part of the midbrain
- Merchant Nordstrom
- Flip through a magazine?
- "The Canterbury Tales" pilgrim
- Returns's "hello!"
- Dickens boy
- Mars's opposite
- Bogies
- Appearances
- Powerful Washington lobby
- "If — broke ..."
- Near, in Niedersachsen
- Get a 3 on a 3, e.g.
- Blackens
- From the source
- From the capital of Eritrea
- Gets mentioned by a magazine?
- Unvarnished
- Says a myth that's amiss?
- Prefix with god
- Three-time Masters winner
- Manx or Persian
- Present
- One magazine's view?
- Neighbor of Mauritania
- When repeated, comment to an apologist
- Stiller's comedy partner
- Left-lane type
- Movie segment
- Like an oversized magazine?
- City of Brittany
- A.T.M. need
- Guards
- Coordinate in the game battleships
- Back way
- Spill, as blood
- Force behind a magazine?
- Heron's haunts
- "Deal!"
- X's on a map
- U.S.S.R. successor
- "Die Meistersinger" soprano
- Bellyached
- 20 Questions category
- Prominent U.S. mayor
- Held off
- Old car with a 409 engine
- Shining example?
- Fades (out)
- Piece of disinformation
- Larrup
- Ninja's motto
- As the crow cries
- not back in an hour ...
- Foe of the Sioux
- Red Sea nation
- Amounts to carry
- Files
- Jazz group member
- 51-Across, for one
- Switzerland's — Léman
- Poultry plant worker
- Florida Congressman — Hastings
- Operation locations, for short
- Get tough
- Brunch fare
- Point of depression
- G, F and C
- St. Patrick's locale
- Recent fighter
- According to
- Make it
- Disgruntledness
- Any car, affectionately
- Goddess mentioned in "The Raven"
- Computer key
- "Peanuts" boy
- "Lord's Prayer" pronoun
- Like some sports contracts
- Vim
- One First Lady's maiden name
- Piedmont wine city
- Collateral, maybe
- Gets the short end of the stick
- Where Montego Bay is
- Braggart's vacation?
- 1955 Wimbledon and U.S. Open champ
- Sinners do it
- Fine porcelain
- Fraction of an inch
- Curtis and others
- News locale of 5/28/53
- Assents
- "That's impossible!"
- Bank worry
- Resign, as an office
- ... cost to you?
- Sheepskin holder
- Rubber roller
- Brazilian national hero
- Under: Prefix
- Overly
- Silver filling?

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SEEMS TRY LOFTY TENTS
TACTIC VEE INOR SHALES
VISHNIKOVSELECE NEMENT
ETOTILE MODELSHIT
VENTRAL DEER TIE
DIETES RUNT PEATIERE
TGER SIN ORGS BENITE
ERA LLVI NYO ANIET
NUNGGAIS MIDIS FLOPE
YUGA TOOTIN STANGE
ATTN KLEYBRACODA VIBT
SHOCKS ALPERT ODO
PEKOE STIRS ASTENERE
SPIRES EOS HART MA
ACETIN SYNE IIG GITE
LASHEDAY GOLD NAGE
SIR REGA GIBSTOP
ORO ABBATIONS ORATE
RELATE THOLDISOWTERS
TRENOR HELL ON DORIS
AESOPS ASEIA EYE SLOPE

BUSINESS

in brief

Enso now Europe's No. 2 paper maker

Finnish forestry group Enso Oy said yesterday it was taking over German newspaper and magazine paper maker E.Holzmann, widening its product range and making it Europe's second largest producer of paper and board. Enso's initial purchase, of a 50.4 percent majority in the German company for 1.8 billion markka (\$346.2 million), would boost its overall annual capacity by 700,000 tonnes to 6.7 million.

That puts Enso ahead of Sweden's Stora, but still clearly behind its Finnish rival UPM-Kymmene, it said. "We are now... in a situation where we can offer all the products that publishers need and we are also competitive in size," Enso CEO Jukka Harmala told a news conference. *Reuters*

Metromedia Int'l to sell assets to MGM

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc. is buying Metromedia International Group Inc.'s entertainment group and film library for \$573 million, the companies said yesterday. They said the deal involves Metromedia's 2,200-title film and television library and the production and distribution activities of its entertainment group, which includes Orion Pictures Corp., Goldwyn Entertainment Co. and Motion Picture Corp. of America. In addition to the library, MGM will acquire 12 completed films and five direct-to-video features for future release.

The companies said the transaction does not include Metromedia's Landmark Theater Group, which has a total of 138 screens at 50 locations throughout the U.S. *Reuters*

EU seeks united front to narrow wealth gap

European Commissioners sought yesterday to hide deep divisions and forge a united front in the battle to narrow a wide gap in living standards between rich and poor EU members and prepare for expansion eastwards. During a three-day conference to discuss reforms to EU regional, social and farm aid spending, 1,200 experts from the EU's 15 member states and 10 east European applicant countries will discuss a strategy for a massive new seven-year spending program starting in 1999.

"We are still a long way from our grand goal of creating a single European area which is competitive, regionally well-balanced and firmly anchored in its social dimension," EU Regional Affairs Commissioner Monika Wulf-Mathies said.

The EU has failed to bridge the poverty gap despite spending 170 billion euros (\$192 billion) between 1994-99 to help the poorer countries - Portugal, Greece, Ireland and Spain - catch up with their richer partners. *Reuters*

Boeing doubles income, but disappoints Wall St.

SEATTLE (Reuters) - Boeing Co. said yesterday that first-quarter profit more than doubled and sales rose 70 percent as it ramped up airplane production, but the results disappointed Wall Street and the company's stock tumbled.

Boeing said it earned \$313 million, or 87 cents a share, in the quarter, excluding an accounting credit, compared with \$119m, or 35 cents a share, a year earlier. Revenue soared to \$7.32 billion from \$4.29b.

But the net income was 13% below the Wall Street consensus of \$1 a share, according to First Call, and Boeing stock lost \$5.50 to \$96.50 in afternoon trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

"The stock is down because earnings came in quite a bit below the consensus. That's it in a nutshell," said Peter Jacobs, an analyst at Ragen Mackenzie in Seattle.

Analysts said Boeing's earnings were hurt by higher-than-expected research and development expenses for new airplane models and other projects, including a commercial space venture. The firm also said it was incurring significant overtime costs as it increases production to meet rising demand and warned that profit margins would be under pressure for the rest of the year.

"It's sort of a wake-up call to some analysts who I think have been a little too optimistic about their margins," said Bob Toomey at Piper Jaffray.

Bundesbank exec: Better to delay monetary union than compromise criteria

SAARBRUECKEN, Germany (Reuters) - Bundesbank council member Hans-Juergen Koehn said yesterday that he believed a delay in the start of European monetary union would be preferable to twisting the facts to allow a punctual start.

"I think it is correct to allow

the timetable to be determined by convergence developments, but a limited delay in the start of EMU would be preferable to a breach of promise," he said in the text of a speech.

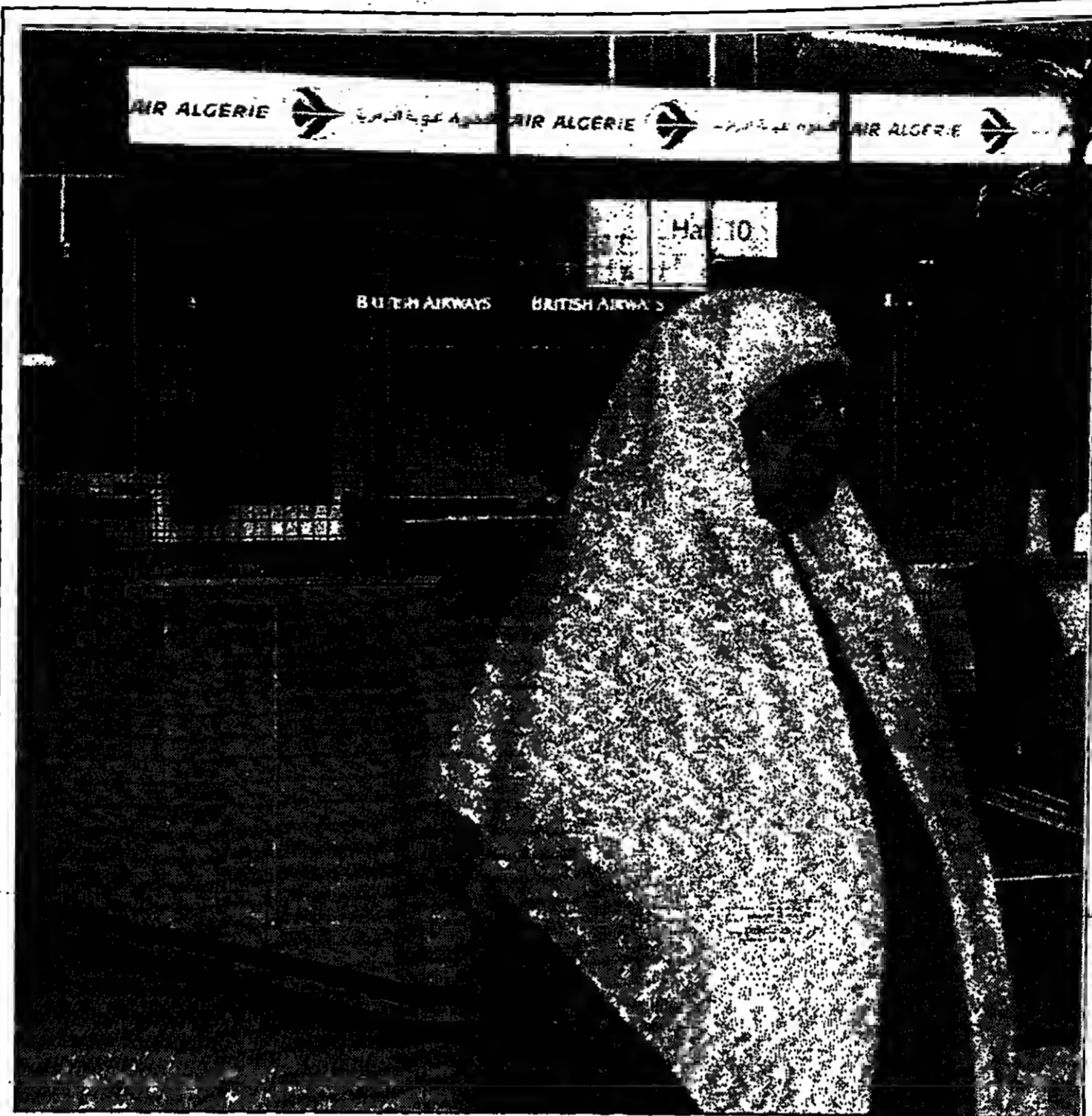
"In contrast to some other commentators, I do not believe that this would lead to cata-

strophic consequences," he added.

Many countries are facing huge problems in meeting one of the criteria for entry to monetary union, which requires that annual public deficits total no more than three percent of a country's gross domestic product.

It is tough and go whether Germany will reach the required level in time for monetary union. Without commenting specifically on his own views, Koehn said that "hardly anyone apart from the Bonn government and the EC commission believes that Germany will meet the three per-

cent level." Bonn's official forecast is for a 2.9% deficit and Finance Minister Theo Waigel reaffirmed that goal at an international meeting in Washington on Sunday. Most independent economists believe this may be optimistic.



BA takes legal action against Roissy-Charles de Gaulle Airport

An Air Algerie passenger passes by Paris's Roissy Airport counters situated next to British Airways counters, as Air Algerie restarted flights over the weekend to and from Roissy-Charles de Gaulle Airport after a two-year interruption. British Airways is taking legal action to overturn the airport's decision to allow the Algerian airline to operate from the main terminal, a move it alleges threatens the security of other carriers. *(Reuters)*

Strikes hit French air traffic, pilots extend action

PARIS (Reuters) - Pilots at Air France Europe, protesting at wage cuts and working conditions in a merger with parent Air France, voted yesterday to extend their four-day-old strike into today and tomorrow.

"Management refuses... the slightest start of discussions," the unions said in a statement.

The pilots' strike again disrupted French air traffic yesterday, grounding about 40 percent of Air France Europe flights, while a flight attendants' strike caused similar cancellations at two French units of British Airways (BA).

The strike by hostesses and stewards at BA's units TAT and Air Liberte over pay and conditions began almost three weeks ago.

Long-haul flights were unaffected, the airline said.

The airlines said that some 60% of their flights operated as normal yesterday and predicted similar levels of service for today.

Also yesterday, air traffic controllers at Paris Orly airport gave notice they would strike tomorrow to gain work conditions similar to those of their counterparts at Charles de Gaulle Roissy Airport.

A spokesman for France's aviation authority could not give precise figures about the expected level of disruption but said at least 40% of scheduled traffic would be assured.

The 120 Orly air traffic controllers say the level of traffic at Paris's smaller airport, though lower than at Roissy, is high enough to warrant similar treatment in terms of bonuses and pay differentials.

The aviation authority spokesman said the authority was ready to open negotiations on the issue.

London bankers warned of money-laundering dangers

LONDON (Reuters) - Bankers in London need to adapt to changes in the way illegal drugs money is being laundered, a leading US crimefighter said yesterday.

"I hope to persuade bankers that they should not adhere to old rules but should adapt to changing times," John Moscow, a senior assistant district attorney in Manhattan, told a media briefing.

Moscow said his mission was to get drugs money, which came off the streets of New York or from the cartels of Colombia, from being pushed through the international banking system.

"We are trying to take the profit out of drug crimes by going after the financial crimes," Moscow said, adding that this would only happen if banks were made aware of problems such as "layering."

This is where dollars are rapidly shunted around the world by electronic transfer to hide their true identity. "If you do it [layering] for a week, law enforcement will never catch up," he said.

Moscow said it was important for an institution to be aware of money-laundering "from the top down."

He said it was not enough for banks to hide behind bank secrecy. "I think bank secrecy is a bad thing for honest economies," he added.

And there is great potential for British banks to be brought to jus-

tice by US law enforcers was said Rowan Bosworth-Davies of law firm Titmuss Sainer Dechert, whose firm begins a day symposium on the subject today.

"The US government has made it very clear that it intends to take strong action against [firms in] other jurisdictions," he said.

Bosworth-Davies also revealed the results of a survey of money laundering reporting officers which found "34 percent of respondents could be said not to have been given anything approaching adequate money laundering training."

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS				
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250	
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.625	1.625	1.625	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.000	
Yen (10 million yen)				
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)				
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (25.4.97)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS				
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	BANKNOTES	Rep.
U.S. dollar	3.744	3.707	Buy	Sell
German mark	3.715	3.428	3.51	3.678
Pound sterling	1.964	1.961	1.93	3.4010
French franc	0.922	0.923	0.93	1.3819
Japanese yen (100)	2.6720	0.9316	0.97	0.60
Dutch guilder	1.7485	1.7747	2.82	2.78
Swiss franc	2.3028	2.3488	1.71	1.80
Swedish krona	0.4381	0.4482	0.48	0.48
Norwegian krona	0.4775	0.4853	0.43	0.43
Denmark krona	0.6167	0.6241	0.46	0.50
Finnish mark	0.8334	0.8340	0.84	0.84
Canadian dollar	2.4154	2.444	2.57	2.57
Australian dollar	2.5185	2.5818	2.57	2.57
S. African rand	0.7284	0.7277	0.88	0.78
Belgian franc (10)	0.9621	0.9707	0.98	0.78
Austrian schilling (10)	1.9737	2.3287	0.93	0.98
Italian lire (1000)	4.8300	1.0400	1.83	2.04
Jordanian dinar	1.9737	2.0058	1.83	2.88
Egyptian pound	0.9800	0.9800	0.89	0.89
Ecu	3.8245	3.8282	0.98	1.04
Iran ryal	5.2268	6.3112	5.13	5.07
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3285	2.3871	2.28	2.40
*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.				
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI				

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table listing Israeli companies and their share prices in New York, including AMEX and NASDAQ listings.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table listing international companies and their share prices, categorized by region like Europe and Asia.

ISRAELI SHARES (Continued)

Continuation of Israeli share listings, including various technology and industrial firms.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

Summary table of world market movements, including indices from London, Paris, Frankfurt, and New York.

Dollar sheds most gains; Euro markets end lackluster session up

LONDON (Reuters) - The dollar lost most of the day's gains yesterday as traders pocketed profits from a steep climb triggered by helpful remarks from finance ministers of the G7 industrialized nations over the weekend.

European equity markets ended a lackluster session with London and Paris making gains after trading that was dominated by upcoming general elections.

The dollar surged in early trade to a 37-month high against the mark and near its 55-month peak against the yen before easing in late trading as the bullish mood created by Sunday's G7 meeting cooled.

But traders said a pause for breath was only natural after the dollar's sprint forward. The outcome of this G7 meeting should be read as an indication that the G7 is still fairly content with a strong dollar, though wary of overshooting in the future,

The market was now likely to test central banks' resolve on intervention by bidding the dollar up gradually as fundamentals remain on the favorable side for the US currency.

The G7 meeting has left the foreign exchange market in the mood to test official resolve to maintain stable exchange rates, said Stephen Lewis, chief economist at London Bond Broking.

The dollar, which climbed one-and-a-half pence in overnight deals, weakened to 1.7270 marks in late European trade, compared to 1.7235 on Friday. It was at 126.58 yen, off the day's peak of 127.10.

A factor clouding the markets was a warning from the G7 ministers in Paris that the dollar was overvalued.

Decliners by a small margin on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume was sluggish, but the advance-decline ratio was negative in the Nasdaq Stock Market, which is dominated by smaller companies.

Financial services shares were among the day's strongest groups, with American Express and J.P. Morgan helping the Dow mask Boeing's big drop.

STRIKES HIT FRENCH AIR TRAFFIC

Paris (AP) - Pilots at Air France, protesting in support of a merger with German Lufthansa, voted yesterday to strike for their four-day-old walkout.

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At Paris's Orly airport, the strike hit the level of traffic, with cancellations of flights to and from other airports.

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HELEN KAYE
Beijing's limber young acrobats will thrill you as the Beijing State Circus continues its local tour...



Yoav Talmi conducts the Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon LeZion tonight and tomorrow.

CLASSICAL MUSIC
MICHAEL AJZENSTADT
Yoav Talmi leads the Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon LeZion in Rachmaninoff's Second Symphony...

TELEVISION
ELANA CHIPMAN
Half is an autobiographical documentary by its producer, Dan Tal, who goes to Germany with his father...

FILM
ADINA HOFFMAN
THE DEVIL'S OWN - The torrent of negative advance publicity for Alan J. Pakula's new film was unwarranted...

TV

CHANNEL 1
6:30 News flash
6:31 New in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV
8:00 Cartoons
8:30 The Moomins
8:50 Animal Cartoons
9:20 Wizard Oz
9:45 Castle of Happiness

MIDDLE EAST TV
7:00 TV Shop
7:30 700 Club
7:50 The Moomins
8:20 Kity Cat and Tommy

CHANNEL 1
15:30 Anne of Green Gables
15:59 A New Evening
17:34 Gabies - cont.

ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Aproprio
18:30 News
18:30 News
18:30 News

CHANNEL 2
8:15 Today's Programs
8:30 Little Rosie
7:00 Coffee with Tel-Ad

FAMILY CHANNEL
7:00 Seeing Stars with Heather Lockler
7:30 Love Story with Michael Hayes

JORDAN TV
14:00 Holy Koran
JERUSALEM CINEMA
11:00 The Princess Bride

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 4 rows (19:30, 20:00, 20:30, 21:30, 22:00, 22:30, 23:00) listing TV programs.

Horrible Life of Lani Rifenstahl (German, 1995) - Documentary finds Rifenstahl, at 90, trying to justify her career...

6:00 Open World
6:30 World On a Plate
6:50 Travelogue
9:00 Big City Metro

8:30 Bodies in Motion
16:00 Bodies in Motion
16:30 National League Basketball Playoffs

8:00 Travel Xpress
8:30 VIP
7:30 The Ticket
7:30 NBC Nightly News

8:30 Ice Hockey: World Championship, Finland (pp)
10:00 Gymnastics: European Masters
11:30 Speedworld

11:30 a.m., 5, 7, 30 - Romeo and Juliet-Dante's Peak 11:30 a.m., 5, 7, 30, 10



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Cryptic crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include 'Basic outline of plot on earth (6,4)', 'Gold, centre part of freshwater fish (4)', etc.

SOLUTIONS section for the cryptic crossword, providing answers for the clues. Includes 'ACROSS: 1 Telling, 6 Tails, 8 Mecha, 9 Machete, 10 Dangoon, 11 Tibia, 12 Frenzy, 14 Ocelot, 17 Chama, 18 Frenzy, 22 Impasse, 23 Idios, 24 Needa, 25 Nonagon.' and 'DOWN: 1 Tamed, 2 Lagoon, 3 Issue, 4 Gemini, 5 Tactus, 6 Inart, 7 Sackling, 18 Sphen, 19 Amply, 20 Union, 21 Demosa.'

QUICK CROSSWORD section with a grid and clues. Clues include '5 Passage between 14a (6)', '8 Colour of dirty snow (3-5)', '9 Tobacco for inhaling (6)', etc.

MOVIES section listing various films and their showtimes. Includes 'HERZLIVA HOLIDAY Michael 11:30 a.m., 5, 7, 30, 10', 'RETAK TIKVA G.G. HECHAL The Saint-Metro 5, 7, 30, 10', etc.

PM won't sign Deri reprieve petition

By MICHAL YUDELMAN and SARAH HONIG

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu does not intend to sign the petition calling on the attorney-general to reconsider the indictment of Shas leader MK Aryeh Deri.

The reason given by Netanyahu, who spoke in a television interview Sunday night, was that "the prime minister does not sign petitions." Earlier that day, the prime minister said he had not yet decided whether to sign the petition and would make up his mind when he received it.

Netanyahu noted the petition "seems a little strange to me, but it is clear to me that there is a natural feeling of people that something is wrong." He added: "I can understand Deri's frustration and that of his supporters, because a man is innocent until proven guilty." Netanyahu said he is convinced Deri will prove his innocence.

The prime minister denied any intention of firing Justice Minister Tsahi

Haneghi or moving him to another portfolio due to his conduct in the Bar-On Affair as established by the report of Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and State Attorney Edna Arbel. Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, who was interviewed last weekend, said Netanyahu had promised him to remove Haneghi and to make several other changes in the cabinet.

Commenting on the critical statements made by Sharansky and other ministers concerning the prime minister and the cabinet, Netanyahu said in holiday media interviews that he had spoken to Sharansky, and the latter's comments had been "taken out of context."

Sharansky said in a Yediot Aharonot interview: "Netanyahu has not proved he can lead a government. All the critical decisions from the peace process to economic issues were taken in a strange way. The appointment of the attorney-general was a functional failure." Sharansky also described the cabinet as "a circus."

Netanyahu said in weekend interviews with radio and television that he plans to add professional and experienced people to the prime minister's office to improve its functioning, as part of the "stocktaking" he promised. He admitted there are many things to be mended in the government and said he intends to mend them.

Meanwhile, after Labor Party leader Shimon Peres' and leadership candidate Ehud Barak called separately on Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef last weekend, the party sent nine of its 71-member Young Guard executive to visit Deri on Sunday. "We came to strengthen you Aryeh and to tell you that we share your feeling that you are being wronged," said Yoram Marciano.

Roni Na'aman said: "You are a great man, Aryeh. You are made of the stuff which great leaders are made of. You are the sort suited to lead the country and they are trying to bring you down. We are impressed with your talent and wisdom

and we wish you success. We know you are being discriminated against."

Deri told Labor's Young Guard he has "no need for demonstrations of support or for petitions. I have not initiated any of these. Anyone who says I did is speaking nonsense. At the same time, let's not be ostriches who bury our heads in the sand and pretend that there is no problem here, that there is perfect equality here and that everyone is treated fairly and according to the same standards and criteria."

The Shas leader warned that "there is a great discontent and rumblings of uprising among a considerable segment of the public. The way things are now, I won't be surprised if it will all lead to an explosion."

Leah Rabin, widow of late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, traveled to Jerusalem on Sunday to sign a petition calling for the establishment of a state inquiry to investigate the Bar-On Affair. "It is imperative that we raise our voices in protest when this prime minister attempts

to turn the page and return to business as usual," she said.

Rabin noted that her husband had not run for re-election in 1977 after "a formal problem" with the couple's illegal dollar account in the US. She said Netanyahu "should long ago have drawn the only honorable conclusions and resigned his office, because this case is by far more severe."

A source close to Netanyahu condemned "the repeated misleading attempt to compare the Bar-On Affair to the Rabbin's dollar account. In the dollar account case, there was a clear uncontestable violation of the law. It was black on white and the sum involved in those days was not paltry."

"In the Bar-On Affair, there is nothing like unequivocal guilt. Not only was Netanyahu not convicted, but there was no basis to even charge him and he maintains total innocence of any wrongdoing. No one has proven that he is not innocent," the source said.

WEATHER

Jerusalem 8-18
Tel Aviv 15-22
Haifa 15-22
Tiberias 12-26
Atula 11-21
Samaria 10-19
Beersheba 12-25
Eilat 16-30
Dead Sea 17-26
Golan 7-15

Forecast: Partly cloudy slight rise in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

	Low	High	Wind	Cloud
Amsterdam	6	16	15	partly cloudy
Berlin	7	17	16	partly cloudy
Buenos Aires	14	21	10	clear
Carri	15	22	10	clear
Chicago	10	18	10	partly cloudy
Copenhagen	6	16	10	partly cloudy
Frankfurt	7	17	10	partly cloudy
Geneva	8	18	10	partly cloudy
Helsinki	5	15	10	partly cloudy
Hong Kong	22	28	10	partly cloudy
Johannesburg	14	22	10	partly cloudy
London	12	18	10	partly cloudy
Los Angeles	12	22	10	partly cloudy
Madrid	10	18	10	partly cloudy
Moscow	6	16	10	partly cloudy
New York	8	18	10	partly cloudy
Paris	7	17	10	partly cloudy
Rome	8	18	10	partly cloudy
Stockholm	6	16	10	partly cloudy
Sydney	13	21	10	partly cloudy
Tokyo	15	23	10	partly cloudy
Vienna	7	17	10	partly cloudy
Zurich	8	18	10	partly cloudy

Netanyahu insists A-G's Bar-On report clears him

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said Sunday that the State Attorney's report on the Bar-On Affair clears him of any wrongdoing and all the accusations made against him were unfounded and unproved.

For the first time since the report was released 10 days ago, the prime minister agreed on Sunday to answer journalists' questions. He accused left-wing elements and the media of trying to undermine Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein's decision not to indict him, and of demanding a state commission of inquiry for political reasons.

Israel Radio's Arye Golan read out parts of the report questioning Netanyahu's conduct in the affair and leaving doubts and "hovering shadows" as to his real motive in appointing Bar-On. He also asked about the pressure exerted by MK Aryeh Deri on Netanyahu to appoint Bar-On, indicating that Shas's position on the Hebron issue might be connected to the appointment.

"All these questions arouse suspicion that the main motive for the prime minister's desire to appoint Bar-On lies in a secret reason which the prime minister did not reveal," the report said.

Netanyahu responded by saying "the bottom line is that I

committed no transgression and the attorney-general confirms it." In an interview with Army Radio, interviewer Yael Dan questioned Netanyahu's statement that the report cleared him completely, noting that Rubinstein did not say he did nothing wrong, "he only stated it was hard to prove."

"Apparently, it cannot be proved that you did not commit a transgression," she added, at a later stage of the interview.

Netanyahu said, "I know exactly what I did and what I didn't do, and I didn't commit a single offense from all the things that I was said to have done."

Commenting on the violent attacks on journalists following Netanyahu's verbal attack on the media last Sunday, after the report was issued, the prime minister told Israel Radio "there is a clear line between criticism and violent acts, that's the essence of the rule of law. I'm calling and warning that nobody dare use violence against any journalist, it's simply forbidden."

Netanyahu added that "with all the harsh criticism I have for some journalists, I also have deep appreciation for others who dealt with the affair, and courageously stood up against the murky wave intended to topple the government."

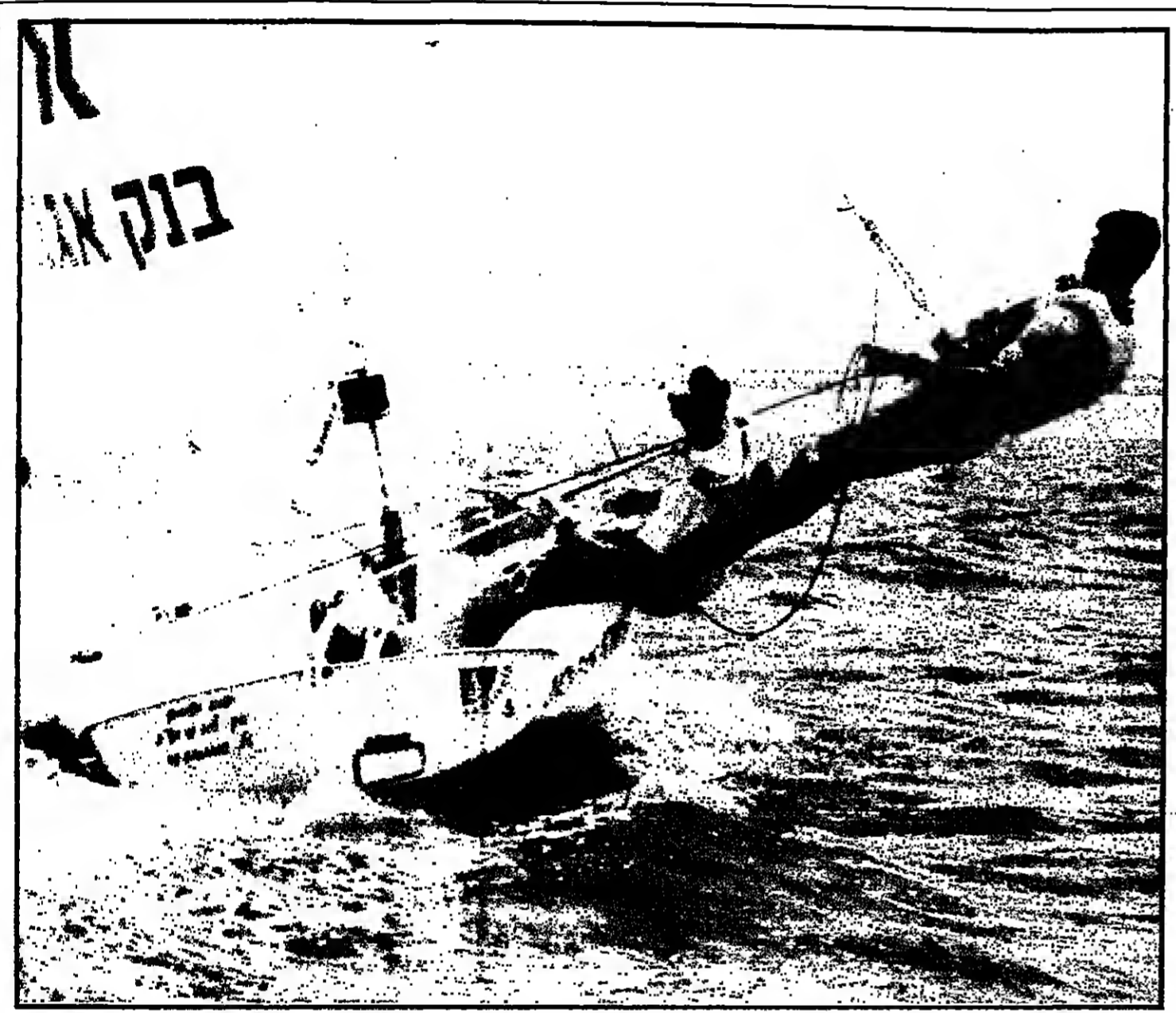
Winning cards

In Sunday's Chance draw, the lucky cards were the 8 of spades, king of hearts, queen of diamonds, and king of clubs.

US stamp honors Wallenberg

The US Postal Service unveiled a stamp on Friday honoring Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Nazis during World War II.

In a ceremony at the Holocaust Memorial Museum, Rep. Tom Lantos and Postal Service Governor S. David Fineman removed the blue cloth covering the stamp design, a portrait of Wallenberg on the telephone with a background of Holocaust survivors over his shoulder. (AP)



A delicate balance

A teammate stretches out from his boat's gunwale in a trapeze rig to help its balance, as competitors in the 420-class of the National Youth Sailing Championships race downwind off Tel Aviv on Sunday.

US orders ex-Auschwitz guard deported

WASHINGTON (Reuter) - A federal court ordered a 75-year-old Michigan man deported for serving as a guard at Nazi prison camps, the Justice Department said yesterday.

Chief US Immigration Judge Michael Creppy found that Ferdinand Hammer, who lives in Sterling Heights, Michigan, participated in persecuting people at Auschwitz in Nazi-occupied Poland and at Sachsenhausen outside Berlin in 1944 and 1945.

He also found that Hammer guarded prisoners on transports between the two camps in 1945, when the Nazis left Auschwitz ahead of the arrival of Soviet troops. Captured German documents showed that Hammer was a member of the Waffen SS, judged a criminal organization at the Nuremberg trials after World War II.

Last May, a US District Court stripped Hammer of his US citizenship on grounds that the retired foundry supervisor lied about his role in the war.

Chronicles

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